

1578/1007 ②

BEN JOHNSON'S JESTS.

OR, THE

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WITTY QUIBBLES, and
RIDICULOUS BULLS.

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The poignant Pun, and brilliant jest,
In pleasing Garb of Nature dress'd,
Their universal Balm impart,
To recreate the gloomy Heart.

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BEN JOHNSON'S JESTS.

BEN Johnson coming down stairs in a tavern, his foot slipped, and accidentally beat against a door, which flew open, where some Gentleman were drinking, to whom he said, I did not intend to have intruded myself, but being so accidentally fallen into your company, I am resolved to drink with you before I go. One of the Gentlemen who knew him, reply'd, since by your fall we enjoy your company, give me leave to rise and bid you welcome.

Another time the Archbishop sent him an excellent dish of fish from his table, without any drink, so he made these verses:

*In a dish came fish
From the Archbishop-----
Hop was not there,
Because there was no beer.*

Another time Ben comes into an Inn in Southwark, in a country-Habir, and gets into the chimney corner; some gentlemen sitting at a table, thought to have put a trick upon him; says one, come, countryman, here's to you: thank you, master, says Ben; says another, come, we are going to make some rhymes, and he that can't rhyme must pay the reckoning: I don't know what you mean says Ben; but let's taste of your ale and your tobacco, and then I am for you: so begin,

*Good ale, tobacco, and a pretty wench,
Will bring a man to the King's Bench,
And after he has spent all,
Then take him, Sir John Lent* all*.*

As Ben Johnson (who was a Bricklayer before he turned poet) was one morning going early to his work, with his tools in his hand, he was spy'd by a young lady, who was up sooner than ordinary breathing the fresh air out of her chamber window. She was of a gay disposition, and thinking to be merry with our bricklayer, called to him and said,---by line and rule works many a fool, good morrow, Mr Bricklayer. Ben no sooner turn'd his head and saw her, but he answered, in silk and scarlet walks many a harlot, good morrow Madam.

Ben Johnson when he went to Basingstoke, used to put up his horse at the sign of the Angel, which was kept by Mrs Hope, and her daughter Prudence; but Ben going one day,

* Who was at that time master of the King's Bench.

Ben Johnson's JESTS.

and finding strange people in the house and the sign changed,
he wrote the following lines :

*When Hope and Prudence kept this House,
An Angel kept the door :
Now Hope is dead,
The Angel fled,
And Prudence turn'd a whore.*

Ben Johnson and Sylvester being at a tavern, began to
Rhyme, upon each other : Sylvester began ;

*I Sylvester,
Lay with your Sister,*

Ben Johnson replies :

*I Ben Johnson
Lay with your Wife.*

That's no rhyme, says Sylvester ; but says Ben Johnson,
there is a deal of truth in it.

Attorney General Noy making a venison feast at a tavern,
Ben Johnson wrote these verses and sent him.

*When all the world was drown'd,
No venison could be found ;
For then there was no park :
So here we simply sit,
Like fools without one bit,
Noy has it all in his ark.*

For which piece of wit, he had a corner of a patty and twelve
bottles of wine.

Another time he designed to go through the half-moon in
Aldersgate-street, but the door being shut, was denied en-
trance : so he went to the sun tavern at Long-lane end, and
made these verses.

*Since the half-moon is so unkind,
To make me go about,
The sun my money now shall have,
And the moon shall go without.*

Randolph the poet having a mind to see Ben Johnson,
who was drinking at a tavern with three other Poets, peeps
into the room. Ben Johnson espying him, cry'd, Come in
Bo-peep, which he did. When the reckoning was call'd for,
there were five shillings to pay : then they agreed, that he
that made the best extempore verses, should be excused from
paying any of the reckoning : when it came to Randolph's
turn, he made these.

*I Bo-peep and you four sheep,
With every one his fleece :
You have call'd what's to pay,
There's five shilling's they say,
That's fifteen pence a piece.*

Ben Johnson, owing a vintner some money refrained his house; the vintner meeting him by chance, asked him for his money; but at the same time told him, if he would come to his house, and answer him four questions, he would forgive him the debt. Ben gladly accepted the offer, and went at the time appointed, called for a bottle of claret, and drank to the vintner praising the wine greatly: says the vintner, this is not our business, Mr Johnson; answer me my four questions, or else you must pay me my money, or go to jail, (and he had two bailiffs waiting at the door to arrest him.) Pray, says Ben, propose your four questions: then says the vintner, you must tell me, First, what pleases God? Secondly, what pleases the devil? Thirdly, what pleases the world? and, Lastly, what pleases me? well, says Ben,

God is best pleas'd when man forsakes his sin;

The devil's best pleas'd when men persist therein:

The world's best pleas'd when you do draw good wine;

And you'll be pleas'd when I do pay for mine.

The vintner was extremely well satisfied, and gave Mr Johnson a receipt in full for the debt, and his bottle of claret into the bargain.

Ben Johnson having an application made to him by a young heir to write an epitaph on one that had left him a good estate; and the poet asking, what he had done that was praise worthy? the heir would give an account of nothing memorable that he had done, either on the score of charity or any thing else; but that he had lived quietly and privately, and passed with great silence to the grave: but he still pressed to have an epitaph set on his benefactor's tomb. Ben, at this, asked him how old his friend was? to which he answered, two and forty years: then said the poet I would have you write this upon him:

Here lies a man, was born, and cry'd,

Told two and forty years, and dy'd

A pretty maid having her valentine pinned upon her sleeve, a gentleman asked her if her sleeve was to be let? "Yes," says she, 'tis to be let alone; but my petticoats are to be taken up when I have a fit opportunity, and like my company."

The king of Sweden being with a very small number of men before a town of his enemies, they, in derision of his strength hung out a goose for him to shoot at: but perceiving before night, that these few men had invaded and set their chief holds on fire; they demanded of him what his intent was? He answered, it was to roast their goose.

One asked an extravagant young spark, why he would sell all his lands? he said, "Because he was taking a journey towards heaven, and he should never come there till he had left the earth."

One being asked why he inveighed so much against women

seeing so many authors had written so largely in their praise? why truly, says he, they wrote only what women ought to be; but I say, what indeed they are.

An old lady beholding herself in a looking glass, and spying the wrinkles in her face, threw down the glass in a rage; saying, "it was strange to see the difference of glasses; for, says she, I have not looked in a true one these seventeen years."

The Lord G -- being at a masquerade, in a cook's habit another person in a domini, desired he would dress him a dish of veal cutlets:--- "Sir, you being the best looking calf in the company, I must cut the meat from your carcase."

A scoffing blade meeting a gentlewoman with a long nose, says Madam, I would gladly kiss your mouth, if I knew how to come at it for your nose: Nay, Sir, says she, if my nose be so big that you cannot come at my mouth, you may kiss me where there is no nose to give offence.

A gentleman coming into a choir, where there was none of the best musick in the world, hearing them singing, "Have mercy upon us miserable sinners" "Ay, says he, they might very well have said have mercy upon us miserable fingers."

A man being asked what the church of Rome was like? truly answered he, I think her as like my wife as any thing. Why so, says the other; "Why, says he, she commands when she pleases, without regard of either God or man; and then curses all the family to hell, if they give not present obedience."

A man being asked how long he had been married? answered with a sad countenance, I remember very well I became acquainted with my wife in the time of the great plague, and now it is almost the thirteen year of her reign.

A countryman near Oxford was saying, that he had been bargaining with two women for some commodities; but, says he, I found them to be cheating whores, impudent whores, and scolding whores. Well, neighbour, says one who heard him, now you talk so much of whores, does your daughter go to Abingdon Market to-morrow?

An ignorant physician told a parson, that his cure maintained only himself; but mine, says he, maintains all the sextons in town.

A certain clergyman in the west of England, being at the point of death, a neighbouring brother, who had some interest with his patron, apply'd to him for the next presentation; upon which the former, who soon after recovered, upbraided him with the breach of friendship, and said, he wanted his death. No, no, doctor, says the other, you quite mistake, it was your living I wanted.

One intending to travel, asked a friend of his which was the nearest way to Rome! why, says he, it is not far off; for

you have nothing more to do, but enter in at the gate of lew'd life, which leads to the street of tradition, and it will bring you strait to the palace of supremacy, and then you are at his holiness's feet, and may kiss his toe when you please.

Not many years ago, a certain temporal peer, having in a most pathetick and elaborate speech, expos'd the vices and irregularities of the clergy, and vindicated some gentlemen of the army, from imputations unjustly laid upon them. A prelate, irritated at the nature, as well as at the length of the speech, desired to know when the noble lord would leave off preaching? the other answered, the very day he was made a bishop.

One being sick, was counselled to think of heaven: why, whither, says he, do you think my wife's gone? they told him to heaven; nay, then, says he, I care not where I go, so I come not where she is.

A country-fellow sent on an errand, from Covent-Garden to Holborn, having his master's cloak upon his arm, was loath to carry it so far, so he hung it upon the rails in Covent Garden till he came back; but when he returned found the cloak stole. "Why, says he, I have hung my coat vive or six hours upon a hedge in our country, and the rogues never came, but I think they are all thieves here in London."

A witch being at the stake to be burnt, saw her son there, and desired him to give her son a drink, No, mother, said he, it will do you wrong? for the drier you are, the better you'll burn.

A tinker was crying for work; one ask'd him why he did not stop the two holes in the pillory? says the tinker, if you'll lend me your head and ears, I'll lend you hammer and nails, and give you the work into the bargain.

A scholar of Cambridge in the time of the assizes seeing a boy in the cattle yard throwing stones at the gallows; have a care, sirrah, said he, you don't hit the mark.

Of all trades a tooth-drawer is the most unconscionable, for he deprives a man of that which he gets his living by.

Sir Thomas More, the day he was beheaded, had a barber sent him because his hair was long; which 'twas thought, would make him more commiserated by the people. The barber asked him, whether he would be trimmed? in good faith, honest fellow, said Sir Thomas, the king and I have a suit for my head; and till the title be cleared, I will bettow no cost upon it.

A person in company railing against a gentleman lately deceased, one of them, to vindicate him, said, he thought him not so very bad as he had been represented; adding, to my knowledge, Sir, he was very charitable; and charity, you know, covers a multitude of sins. Faith, Sir, so it ought said the first, for he had a multitude to cover.

A gentleman being under the hands of a political barber, who was shaving his head, the tonsor was entertaining him

Ben Johnson's JESTS.

with an account of the war in Italy, and giving him a description of the place, till growing very verbose and tedious in his operation, the gentleman said, Sir, I hope you're not drawing a map of the country upon my head with your razor.

Sir Harry Saville, being asked his opinion of the poets, by my Lord Essex; he answered, that he thought them the best writers, next to those that wrote prose.

One of a great family and no wealth, married a very rich widow; says one, this is like a black pudding; the one brought blood, and the other brought suet and oatmeal.

Some gentlemen being a drinking, a wench came up to attend them; she being not enough, in anger they knocked for more; the master coming up, ask'd what they call'd for? said they, must we be thus attended? have you no more whores in this house but this? yes Sir, says he, pray be patient, I'll send up my wife.

A man complained to his wife she brought him nothing: you lie like a rogue, says she, for I bring you boys and girls without your help.

One Randal, seeing his friend wear a thread bare cloak, asked him, if it was not sleepy? why do you ask? (said the other) because, said he, I think it has not had a nap these seven years.

Two men going from Shipton to Burford, and seeing a miller riding softly before 'em on his sacks, were resolved to abuse him; so they went one on each side, saying, come tell us, miller, art thou more knave or fool, truly, said he, I don't know which I am most; but I believe I am between both.

A lieutenant-colonel in one of the Irish regiments, in the French service, being dispatch'd by the Duke of Berwick, from fort Kehl, to the King of France, with a complaint, relating to some irregularities that had happened in the regiment; his majesty, with some emotion of mind, told him, that the Irish troops gave him more uneasiness than all his forces besides. Sir, (says the officer) all your majesty's enemies make the same complaint.

A countryman returning from London into the country, was asked by a female neighbour, what news was at London? he told her all the news he heard was, that there was a press for cuckolds. "Is there so? (says she) then to avoid the worst my husband shall not stir out of doors until the press be over."

John Taylor, the water-poet, being on board the ship Hector, the captain making him merry with punch, he began to be very poetical, and saluted the captain with these lines:

*Most noble Hector, and thou son of Priam,
I wish thou wer't but half so drunk as I am.*

Pray what may your rectory be worth? said a bishop to a clergyman. As much as your bishoprick, my lord, heaven or hell, answered the rector.

When my lord president of the council came first to be lord

Ben Johnson's JESTS.

treasurer, he complained to my lord chancellor of the troublesomeness of the place, because the exchequer was empty. The lord chancellor answered; My lord, be of good cheer, now you see the bottom of your business first.

One asked, why men sued always to the women, and women never to men? because, said another, women are always ready for the men, but men are not always for the women.

A Lady walking with Mr Bacon in Gray's-Inn walks, asked him whose was that piece of ground that lay under the well? he answered, theirs. Then she asked him if those fields beyond the walks were theirs too? he answered, yes, madam, as you are ours, to look on, but no more.

As some fishermen were drawing the river at Chelsea, Mr Bacon came thither in the afternoon and offered to buy their draught: they were willing for thirty shillings: Mr Bacon offered ten. They refused it: why then says Mr Bacon, I will be only a looker on. They drew, and caught nothing; says he, are not you mad fellows now, that might have had an angel in your pocket to have made merry withal, and now you must go home with nothing? Ay, but says the fishermen, we had hopes to make a better gain of it. Hope is a good breakfast, says he, but a bad supper.

A lady told a simple gentleman, that his wit was pretty: why so, says he? Because says she, you have so little, and all that's little is pretty.

An old lawyer, having his eye upon a pretty girl, came and proposed his business, which the maid not relishing, asked him what he was; I am, Sweatheart, says he, a civil lawyer. A civil lawyer, Sir, says she, if civil lawyers are so uncivil, I wonder what other lawyers are.

A young fellow, who fancied himself a good player, resolved to take to the stage, and having offered his service to the proprietor of Covent-Garden house, was desired to speak some lines of tragedy by way of probation, before the great Mr Quin: while he was tearing away his tragedy speech, a dog, who belonged to some of the company, set up such a howl, as drowned the voice of the actor; hereupon Mr Quin asked whose dog it was? and being answered. "He's a dog of judgment, by jove, says he; and turned away on his heel."

Another came also to offer himself, whose talent lay in comedy, and having given a specimen to Mr Quin, he asked if he had ever played any parts in comedy; the former answered, yes, he had done Able in the Alchymist; I am rather of opinion you played Cain, says Quin, for I am certain you murder'd Abel.

An elderly Quaker, being joined in the band of wedlock with a brisk widow of the same persuasion, as he was entering the sheets with her on the wedding night, he called to the Lord to direct him: Nay (saith Tabitha) the Lord strengthen thee, and I will direct thee.

A good old porter to a monastery was used to say, that generally speaking, their devotions began by, I believe in God, and usually, ended with the resurrection of the flesh.

The Marquis of Grance being just returned from the army, went to wait upon the king at the Louvre in his riding-dress, all dusty: two marshals of France meeting him in the ant-chamber in that dirty condition, what a pickle you are in, said they to him, smiling; why, you look like a groom. Right, gentlemen, answered the Marquis, just ready to curry you both very handsomely.

A wise mayor with his discreet wife, went to see the Queen's ape; as they came in, the ape caught at his wife, and made mouths at her; upon which the mayor told the ape he was an unmannerly gentleman to mock an ancient woman, as his wife was, and a midwife too, and one old enough to be his mother.

A maid was to be sworn before a justice, who told her if she told a lie it would be her damnation; at which she humm'd and hah'd a great while; for she was to declare, whether she was maid, widow, or wife; but she considering of it, said, I was never married, and so you may write me down, young woman.

A gentleman being sent for to the sign of the horns in Cateaton street, and coming accordingly, but not knowing the house, asked a young man that stood at the door, pray where is the sign of the horns? (the gentleman at the same time stood under the sign) upon which the lad replied, Sir, you cannot well see them, but they are exactly over your head.

One came to visit a gentleman in the country, and finding him eating of cherries with his spectacles on, having asked his reason for it: he answered, the truth is, I bid my man bring me kentish cherries, and the knave hath brought me these little ones, which you see; therefore I eat them with my spectacles on to make them look bigger.

A country fellow came to a turner's shop to buy a mat: many were shewn him; but he liked none: when to jeer the bumpkin, he brought his wife and daughter Mat, and told him there were all the mats he had: "No, said the countryman, they will not do, for I must have one that has not been laid up on."

A rich farmer who had a handsome woman to his wife, when he had lent any thing, as horse, cart, wheel barrow, &c. would always tell the party, I would not do it to any one but to you; his wife hearing him always in this tale, standing behind his back, forks her fingers, and holding them over his head, said, "No, indeed I would not do this to any one but to you."

A gentleman riding along had a dog named cuckold, which ran after a bitch into an entry: upon which he called out cuckold, cuckold; the woman came out and said he was a

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knave to call her husband cuckold; No, said he, I don't call him, I call my dog; the more knave you, said she, to call a dog by a Christian's name.

A man being very jealous of his wife, which way soever she went, would be prying at her heels, and she being offended at it, told him in plain terms, that if he did not leave off those tricks, she would graft such a pair of horns on his head, as should hinder him from coming out of any door in the house.

A lady of the west country gave a great entertainment to most of the polite gentlemen thereabouts; and among others, Sir Walter Raleigh was one; this lady, though otherwise a stately dame, was a notable housewife; and in the morning early, she called to one of her maids, and asked her if the pigs were served? Sir Walter Raleigh's chamber joined to the lady's, so that he heard her. A little before dinner, the lady coming down, in great state, into a room full of gentlemen; as soon as Sir Walter Raleigh set eyes upon her; Madam, said he, are the pigs served? the lady answered, you best know whether you have had your breakfast.

It was said of one, who remember'd every thing he lent, and nothing he borrowed, that he had lost half his memory.

A woman once prosecuted a gentleman for a rape: upon the trial, the judge asked if she made any resistance? Yes, and please your reverence, I cry'd out. The judge again inquired when it was she did so? to which the witness replied, nine months after.

A drunken rake, that made it his constant practice to be in bed every Sunday, was sharply reprimanded for it by a clergyman; the beau answer'd, that he was sorry a person of the sacred function understood the scriptures no better, when the Sabbath was appointed for a day of rest.

A philosopher used to say, that laws were like cobwebs, which caught the small flies, but let the great ones break through.

One said, that there is but this difference between the death of old men and young ones; that old men go to death, and death comes to young men.

A gentleman fell sick, and a friend of his said to him; surely you are in danger; pray send for a physician. The sick man answered, 'Tis no matter, for if I die, I will die at leisure.

One was saying, that his great grand-father, and grand father, and father died at sea. Quoth another, who heard him, if I were you I would never go to sea. Why, said the other, where did your great grand-father, and grand father and father die? He answered in their beds. Then said the first, if I were you, I would never go to bed.

What a fine book could one make out of that you are wholly ignorant of? said a bantering spark one day to his

friend. Right, answered his friend, and what a paultry one could be made out of what you know.

A young woman having newly dined, in the heat of summer, desired her husband to tumble with her upon the bed; he perceived her meaning, and being as full of ice, as she was of fire, told her the dog days were very unwholesome for that recreation. At night, being in bed, she desired her husband to ly closer, for though there were dog-days, she never heard of dog-nights.

A philosopher being asked, why learned men frequented rich men's houses, and rich men seldom visited the learned, answered, that the first knew what they wanted, but the latter did not.

A married man having got a wench with child was told by the Justice, that he thought such a man as he would not have defiled his bed so? you mistake, Sir, said he, there was no defiling of the bed in the matter, for it was done in the field.

A certain lady standing by a fat young gentlewoman, when her stays were lacing on, took occasion to joke her on the largeness of her shape, to which the girl said, she could only wish it as slender as her ladyship's reputation.

A chandler having had some candles stole, one bid him be of good cheer; for in a short time they would all come to light.

A loose fellow was detected in stealing a cup out of a tavern, and a gentleman sent his man to know what was the matter, who came and told him, only a fellow had a cup too much: pish says he, that's my fault, and many an honest man's beside.

A person stopped by the constable, was asked his name; and he said adultery: then, Sir, says the constable, I'll commit you. Sir, says he, if you do, your wife will be angry with you for committing adultery upon your watch.

Some cattle being fodder'd in an inn yard all night, next morning, says a neighbour to the innkeeper, faith, I wonder you will suffer these west-country oxen to be all night in your yard, they have filled it so full of cow-turds, that a man cannot set a foot from them.

A man who had been very jealous, came suddenly home, and found a spark busy with his wife; says he, friend I thank thee, I have feared this a long time, but now I find it true, I am eased of a great deal of trouble; I'll be jealous no more.

Two women were chatting together, says one, my daughter has not laid her eyes together these four nights: you fool, says the other, how should she? does not her nose stand between?

An extravagant young fellow, being accused by one of his friends, of mismanaging his estate, saying I am sorry to see you carry yourself so; for I see you have all the properties of

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a prodigal: nay, says the other, pr'ythee don't say so, for I never yet fed with swine: true, says he, but the reason was, because nobody would trust you with their swine.

A froward young girl having been debauched by a gentleman, the wench's father went to learn of a council, whether an action would not ly from his daughter against the seducer; the barrister bid his client go home, and take better care of the rest of his children; for that he believed there had been already too much action between them.

A merry fellow told an old batchelor of a strange dream he had the night before, for says he, I thought you were dead; and I thought I saw you behind hell-door leading of a great ape, and that Lucifer coming in, and seeing you, asked what that old fellow did there? to whom the devil who attended you, told him, you were an old batchelor, and had never lost your maiden-head; to whom belzebub said, turn him out again, thou dost him wrong: dost thou not see his son in his hand there; he is so like, that any one may know who was the father of him.

The French ambassador dining with King James, the King in mirth drank a health to him, saying the king of France drinks a health to the French king. Upon which the ambassador replied, My master is a good lieutenant, for he holds France well for your majesty. No, says the king, he holds it from me. Truly, Sir, says the ambassador, it is no farther from you than it was.

A country fellow being admitted to a gentleman's table, fell upon the artichokes; but not knowing what should be eaten, and what not, took a mouthful of the burrs, which almost choaked him: when one who sat next him said, "Friend, that dish is reserved for the last." Truly answered he (as well as he could) I am of your mind, for I think it will be my last.

Alonzo of Arragon used to say, in commendation of age, that age appeared best in four things; old wood to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to meet, and old authors to read.

A gentleman in company complaining that he was very subject to catch cold in his feet, another not overloaded with sense told him that it might easily be prevented, if he would follow his directions; I always get, says he, a thin piece of lead out of an India chest, and fit to my shoe for that purpose. "Then, Sir, says the former, you are like a rope-dancer's pole, you have lead at both ends."

A well experienced fellow having, as he thought, newly married a maid, was very impatient for the wedding night to come, and when he was in bed with his simpering bride, he began to attempt the taking of the virgin citadel; but finding much facility in the first charge, he fell into a great passion with his bride, and cry'd out; You d---'d whore, you are no maid. To whom she as confidently replied, A pox on you for a whoremaster; who made you so skilful?

Queen Anne Bullen, as she was led to the block, called one of the king's privy council, and said to him, "Commend me to the king; and tell him, he has been ever constant in his course of advancing me: from a private gentlewoman he made me a marchioness; from a marchioness a queen; and now, having left me no higher degree of earthly honour, he crowns my innocence with martyrdom."

A jealous pated fellow pictured a lamb on his wife's belly; for he was going to sea; and staying out a long time, she began to have an itching desire; her friend visiting her, copied the lamb, and put a pair of horns upon the head of it; and when her husband came home he wondered at the horns: why, what is it, husband? said she. Why horns said he. O lack husband, said she, 'tis two years since you went, and by that time all lambs have horns.

Some ladies having a petition to present to the speaker of commons, waited at the door for his going in; at last the croud grew so great, that there was hardly any passing by; which one of the messengers seeing, cry'd out aloud, "Ladies, pray fall back, and open to the right and left that the members may go in."

Some pleasant railery once passing in the court of requests at Westminster, between the late Lord Oxford, and the late Alderman Parsons, the earl among other things, said, "Prithee, Mr Alderman, let me come and take a bit of mutton with you; I hear you keep a good table, but where the devil stands your house?---Oh! sir, replied the Alderman, very nigh Tower Hill, where thousands as well as myself, will be heartily glad to see you."

Counsellor Cr--le being obliged to ask pardon of the house of commons upon his knees; when he got up, brushed his knees, saying, "I never was in so dirty a house in my life."

A gentleman and two ladies, being out pretty late in London, and not able to get a hackney coach, prevailed with a gentleman's coachman to take them home in his master's chariot, who, hearing them very merry, frequently stopped and bid them take care of the glass; at which the gentleman within said, don't be so uneasy, friend, we have rode in a chariot before now, that I don't doubt, says the fellow, but I believe it is a good while since.

A gentleman meeting the king's jester, asked what news? Why, Sir, replied he, there are forty thousand men risen to-day. I pray to what end, said the other, and what do they intend? Why to go to bed again at night, said he.

A driver chanc'd to overturn his cart far from any assistance, and was forced to stand by till he could find somebody coming that way to help him; at length a parson came, and thinking to put a joke upon the poor carter, said, how now, carter, what! I see you have killed the devil, Yes, faith, master, quoth he, and I have waited two hours for a parson to bury him, and now you are come very seasonably,

One seeing a great heap of stones in St Paul's church-yard, said to his friend, I wish I had some of these stones at home. Why, what would you do with them? said the other. Why said he, I would build a brick wall round my house with them.

Two were disputing which was the noblest part of the body; one said the mouth, because it was saluted first; the other said the breech, because it sat down first: At the next meeting, he that held for the mouth saluted the other with a fart, at which he seemed angry. Why, said he, that part you hold most noble, and so I salute you with it.

A person asking another, how such a person liv'd these hard times? to which he was answered, by his wits. I wonder says the other, how he can live upon so small a stock.

One was talking of a woman that always bit her husband in the teeth with his horns; says a simpleton, who was in company, what a fool was he to let his wife know he was a cuckold.

An ignorant lawyer, pleading in an action of battery, told the judge, in aggravation of the defendant's crime; that he had beat the plaintiff with a certain wooden instrument, called an iron pestle.

The following billet was once put up to be read at a country church:--the prayers of this congregation are desired for a young man at the point of matrimony.

Killegrew, the famous jester to king Charles II. having been at Paris about some business, went from thence to Versailles, to see the French King's court; and being known there to several of the courtiers who had been in England, one of them took occasion to tell the French king, that Killegrew was one of the wittiest men in England: upon which, the king desired to see him. But Killegrew, it seems, being out of humour, spoke but very little; and that so little to the purpose, that the French king told the nobleman who had commended Killegrew, that he looked upon him as a very dull fellow. The nobleman nevertheless assured the king, that (whatever he thought of him) Killegrew was very witty and ingenious: whereupon the king was resolved to make a further trial, and took him into a gallery, where there were abundance of fine pictures; and among the rest, shewed him the picture of Christ upon the cross, and asked him if he knew who that was? Killegrew made himself very ignorant and answered no: why, says the king, this is the picture of our Saviour on the cross; that on the right side is the Pope's; and that on the left is my own: whereupon Killegrew replied, I humbly thank your majesty for the information you have given me; for though I have often heard that our Saviour was crucified between two thieves, yet I never knew who they were before.

A dignify'd clergyman going down to his living to spend the summer, met near his house a conical old chimney-

sweeper, with whom he used to chat. So John, says the doctor, from whence come you? from your house, Sir, says Mr Soot; for this morning I swept all your chimneys. how many were there? says the doctor. No less than twenty, quoth John. Well, and how much a chimney have you? only a shilling a piece, Sir. Why then quoth the doctor, you have earned a great deal of money in a little time. Yes, yes, Sir, says John, throwing his bag of soot over his shoulder, we black-coats get our money easy enough.

A witty knave bargained with a feller of lace in London for as much fine lace as would reach from one of his ears to the other. When they had agreed, he told her that he believed she had not quite enough to fulfil her agreement, for one of his ears was nailed to the pillory at Bristol.

An elderly lady was telling her daughter, a girl of sixteen, of the abominable lewdness and wickedness of the age, and what debaucheries were daily practis'd by vicious men, who made use of violence as well as art, to satisfy their brutal appetites; and how that swords and pistols had been put to women, threatening them with immediate death, if they refused their unlawful embraces; and then asked Miss, that if it should ever happen to be her fate to meet with such a trial, how she should behave? says the girl, life is sweet, mamma.

Alexander, after the battle of Granicus, had very great offers made him by Darius; but consulting with his captains concerning them, Parmenio said, sure I would accept of the offers, if I were Alexander: Alexander answered, so would I if I were Parmenio.

A country fellow being at a fight, one asked, what exploits he had done there? He said, he had cut off one of the enemy's legs: and being told, it had been more manly done if he had cut off his head; O, said he, you must know his head was cut off before.

A countryman wondered there were so many pickpockets in London, seeing there's a watch at every corner: Pho, says another, they'd as willingly meet with a watch as any thing else.

An Oxford scholer being at Cambridge ten days together, they kept him drinking all night, so that he could never rise before dinner; being asked how he liked the place, he said, well enough, but that there was no forenoon there.

Judge Jefferies taking a dislike to an evidence who had a long beard, told him, that if his conscience was as large as his beard, he had a swinping one. To which the witness replied, "My Lord, if you measure conscience by beards, you have none at all."

A gentleman had a blind harper playing before him 'till it was pretty late; at length he commanded his man to light the harper down stairs: to whom the servant replied, Sir, the harper is blind, Why, you ignorant loggerhead, says

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the matter, has not he the more need of light?

One asked why the watermen were suffered to make such a noise at Westminster, to disturb the lawyers in term-time? Says another, Pho! the lawyers are used to bawling themselves.

A thief early in the morning, went to seek his prey, and took two taylors and bound them together; says he, "They say two of a trade can never agree, but now you may fall out and be hang'd."

Mr John Ogle, one of the private gentlemen of the first troop of horse guards, whose sister was mistress to the Duke York, being very extravagant, and spending all his pay, used to make his sister supply him with money: but one time entering her chamber, when the Duke was asleep in bed with her, she hearing him, immediately drew the curtain, and lifted up her hand, that he might not disturb the duke, and he should have his demands: he seemed to be satisfied therewith; but when the curtain was drawn, Jack takes away the Duke's clothes, with his star and garter, laced breeches, gold watch, and money, and went clear off, without any one seeing him. When the duke awoke, he was in a great passion on not finding his clothes; and examined among his servants who had been in his chamber, they answered none but Mr Ogle. Oh! quoth the Duke, madam, you know who has been the thief. About a week after, the Duke and several of the nobility were walking in the park: Ogle immediately steps up to the Duke, and begins to strip, saying, here, take your cloaths again, I have better of my own at home. The duke seeing him begin to strip, and fearing the nobles should be acquainted in what manner he lost his cloaths, said, pish, fie, Mr Ogle, do not strip; you are welcome to them. So they parted good friends, and Ogle went off with great satisfaction.

There being a general muster of the life-guards in Hyde Park, and Ogle having lost his cloak at play, was obliged to borrow his landlady's scarlet petticoat; so tying it up in a bundle put it behind him, then mounted safe enough, as he thought, and away he went; but one of the rank perceiving the border, immediately gave the duke *Item*, and fell back into the rank again. The duke smiling to himself, said, gentlemen, cloak all; which they all did, except Ogle, who, stammering and starting, said, cloak all! what a pox must we cloak for? it don't rain. But he not cloaking, the duke said, Mr Ogle, why don't you obey the word of command! cloak, Sir, said Ogle! why there then; and peeping his head out of the top of the petticoat, though I can't cloak, I can petticoat with the best of you.

Mr Ogle having lived too extravagantly to keep his horse, whenever he was to mount guard, would hire a coach that had a good pair of horses, and putting his saddle and arms in,

ordered the coachman to drive him to Hyde Park gate, where he would compel the coachman to lend him one of the horses, otherwise threaten immediately to shoot him; which trade he having followed to such a degree, that the Duke of Monmouth took notice, that he never mounted guard twice with the same horse, he said, Mr Ogle, I think you have more change of horses than I have; for every muster you have a fresh horse. Quoth Ogle, may it please your grace, I can't tell whether I have a greater variety than you, but I never mount guard but I can follow my horse. However when the muster was over, Ogle rides up to the duke, and shewing him the hackney coach, which was waiting with but one horse, see there, quoth Ogle, did not I tell your grace that I could shew you the fellow of this horse? I will never want a horse for his majesty's service, so long as there is a hackney coach in the town: which made his grace smile; and Ogle returned the coachman his horse again.

Another time Ogle wanting a pair of boots to mount guard in, goes in to a shoemaker's shop, and asked for a pair of boots, which were brought him. They fitting him he walked up and down the shop, to settle them on his feet; but spying an opportunity he ran out, and the shoemaker following, crying, stop thief! stop thief! Ogle said no, gentlemen, 'tis for a wager; I am to run in boots, and he in shoes and stockings. Then said the mob, well run, boots, for shoes and stockings will never overtake thee.

Another time, Mr Ogle being at Locket's ordinary, was playing at hazard with a great many lords, when he had very good luck among them; he therefore ordered the porter to go up and down the streets, and bring to him as many poor people as he could get; who in a little time brought in upwards of an hundred beggars: whereupon Ogle ordered them a shilling a piece, in meat and drink. By that time they had made an end of their allowance, Mr Ogle had broke all the persons of quality, discharging the mumpers reckoning, and giving them six pence a piece besides. As he was going into Spring Gardens, he met the Duke of Monmouth, who ask'd Ogle where he had been? Been? quoth he, why I have been fulfilling the scripture. Quoth the Duke, I believe you know nothing of the matter. No matter for that, said Ogle, but "I have filled the hungry with good things, and the rich I have sent empty away."

A lieutenant of a man of war getting leave of his captain to spend a month or two in town, lodged in a house where there were two sisters, to the eldest of which he made his addresses; but matters not being brought to a conclusion before his time was expired, he was obliged to leave the lady and return to his ship. He had not been many weeks on board before he received a melancholy letter from his mistress; in which she told him the fruits of their love now began to ap

pear; and that, if he did not come and perform his promise, her reputation was gone. Among her other complaints, she told him, that nothing vex'd her so much as the reproaches of her sister, who upon the slightest occasion says she, calls me nothing but whore; whereas, to my certain knowledge, she would have been a whore too, had she not miscarried.

A great officer in France was in danger of losing his place; but his wife, by her suit, made his peace: whereupon a pleasant fellow said, the officer had been crushed, but that he saved himself upon his horns.

A taylor who was accustomed to steal some of his customers cloth, when he came to make himself a suit, stole half a yard of his own: his wife perceiving it, asked the reason: oh, said he, 'tis to keep my hand in, lest at any time I should forget.

A countryman coming to London, went into a bookseller's shop to buy a Bible; the boy shewed him one that had a patch in the cover; the countryman was displeased at that, and would see more; whereas the master came out, asking his servant, what the man would have? Sir, says the boy, he wants a Bible, and he does not like this: then the master looking on it, why Sirrah, said he to his apprentice, have I but one double covered Bible in all the shop, and you must shew every one this? O pray, said the countryman, let me have it by all means, if it be double covered; for I would fain have a lasting one: and so he paid the price very willingly.

A lady belonging to a wealthy parish in London, having had the misfortune to bury several of her family in a little time, the Sexton brought her a bill; which she thinking unreasonable, asked some abatement, and tendered him five shillings less than he charged. The Sexton eyed the money, and at length took it up, saying, as you have been a good customer, madam, and I expect more of your custom. I'll take it for this time, but I really cannot afford it.

In a former reign, a captain in the royal Navy, who had a seat in parliament, and was very zealous against the court, was at length promised to be made an Admiral, upon the first vacancy that should happen. Some of his friends observing, that he did not exert himself in the manner he had done before, were asking the reason; when a gentleman present said, he flags, he flags.

One told his friend merrily, he was bewitched for his head was all in one lump. And you, my friend, replied the other, I am afraid are mad, for your heart is not on the right side.

One said, a covetous man was never satisfy'd: why so, said his friend. Because, replied he, he thinks nothing enough: why then, said the other, he is satisfied with the least, if nothing be enough for him.

A gentleman being choaked with a honey-comb, his friends

began to bemoan him. Why make you so much lamentation? said a witty fellow, never man had a sweeter death.

A tutor bid his pupil come to the schools; but he slept all the while; at length home comes the tutor, and finding him still asleep, asked why he did not come to disputation; truly, Sir, says he I never dreamt on't.

One having an extreme bad cough, said, if one cough be so troublesome, what would a man do if he had twenty.

A traveller relating some of his adventures, told the company, that he and his servant made fifty wild Arabians run: which startling them, he observed, that there was no such great matter in it; for says he, we run, and they run after us.

When Sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper, lived; every room in Gorhambury was served with a pipe of water from the ponds, distant about a mile off: in the life-time of Mr Anthony Bacon, the water ceased: after whose death, his lordship coming to the inheritance could not recover the water without infinite charge: when he was Lord Chancellor, he built Verulam house by the pond side, for a place of privacy; when called upon to dispatch business, and being asked, why he built that house there? his lordship answered, that since he could not bring the water to his house, he would carry his house to the water.

A shopkeeper's man calls an orange wench, and asked her what she would take for a pennyworth? ay, says she, your mother said when you were a puppy, you'd be a great whelp in time.

An old parson was reprehending the gallants of the times, saying, beloved, the apparel which men now wear, makes them look like apes, in their short breeches; and the ladies, forsooth, must have their gowns daggling half a yard upon the ground, a very unseemly sight: now, to rectify this disorder, you women should take up your coats; and you men shou'd let down your breeches.

One of the comedians walking down Bow-street, Covent-Garden, saw a poor miserable object asking charity: he stopped and relieved him, saying at the same time, this man must either be in very great distress, or a very good actor.

A clergyman, who had led a very dissolute life about town for many years, at last made interest to be chaplain to a gentleman who was going abroad in public character; the envoy told him, he had been thoroughly informed of his vicious courses, yet that should be no obstacle to his preferment was he not still wanting of one vice more. The parson amazed at a complaint of his deficiency in wickedness, impatiently desired to be informed in what he had fail'd; the envoy replied, hypocrisy, to cover all the rest.

One speaking of a young physician asked, whether he kept his coach, no, says another, his coach keeps him.

A gentleman had often solicited his wife's maid for a little of that which Harry gave Doll; but she denied still, saying, he'd hurt her, and then she would cry out; after all was done, look you there now, said he, did I hurt you? well, said she, or did I cry out?

A cooper beat his wife for pissing a bed; one desired him to be more moderate for she was the weaker vessel; therefore, says he, I hoop her because she should hold water the better.

A French doctor asked a waterman, whether he might safely go by water over the river? the fellow told him, yes; but the doctor coming to the water side, and finding it very rough, said, you watermen are the veryest knaves in the world, for to gain six pence, you care not though you cast a man away, "Sir, said the waterman, we are men of cheaper function, and don't ask so much for casting men away as you do."

A minister being deprived for non conformity, said, it should cost an hundred men their lives; some understood this, as to his being a fellow, that would move sedition, and complained of him; who, upon being examined, said, his meaning was, That he would practice physick.

One of the philosophers was asked, how a wise man differed from a fool? He answered, send them both naked to a stranger and you will see.

A person being asked, what learning was most necessary in human life, answered, to unlearn that which was bad.

A lawyer told his client, his adversary had removed his suit out of one court into another. Let him remove it to the devil, quoth the other, I am sure my attorney, for money will follow him.

A city sergeant had an action against a gentleman at the suit of a taylor: he espies the gentleman (but having forgot the taylor's name) and told him he had an action against him: At whose suit? says the gentleman. Why, at his suit that made your suit, replies the serjeant.

Two rich men being tired out with a tedious law-suit, at last they agreed to refer it to a justice of peace; the plaintiff (who had the equity of the cause on his side) presented the justice with a new coach; and the defendant did the like with a couple of horses. The justice approving of the horses better than the coach, gave it for the defendant. Next day, the plaintiff asked him, why his coach, went out of the right way? Oh! said the justice, I could not possibly help it, for the horses drew it so.

A reverend gentleman having received an invitation to dinner wrote on the ten of hearts, by a young lady of great beauty, merit, and fortune. This, the gentleman thought a good opportunity to give the lady a distant hint of his hopes, he therefore wrote the following lines on the same card, and returned it by her own servant.

*Your compliments, lady, I pray now forbear,
For old English service is much more sincere :
You've sent me ten hearts, but the tythe's only mine,
So give me one heart and take back t'other nine.*

A jury having given 1500 l. damages against Sir R--H---ly, for criminal conversation with a gentleman's wife, as the defendant was going out of court, he cried, "Damn these twelve appraisers, they have confoundedly overvalued my pastime."

Dr Bently shewing a young lady the find library in Trinity College, and among the rest of the books, his own writings curiously bound, asked the lady how she liked the binding : the lady answered, they were extremely handsome, but she chose rather to have his works in sheets.

A trial for lands being pleaded before a chancellor, the counsel on both sides set forth their limitations in question by the plat ; and one counsel pleaded, my Lord, we lie on this side, and the other said, my Lord we lie on this side : Nay, says the chancellor, if you lie on both sides, I'll believe neither of you.

An old usurer had constantly two dishes brought to his table ; yet never eat of but one ; at length his man once brought him but on : Sirrah, says he, where's the other dish ? Sir, says he, it has come so oft, I thought by this time it would have found its way hither without any assistance.

A person sent his man to a lawyer for advice without a fee : and was slighted ; upon which his master went, and gave him his fee : O, now (says the lawyer) I understand you. When he came home, he chid his man for not telling the business right : O, Sir, says he, I had not my instructions in my pocket.

A lady was saying she had overthrown her adversary ; at which one of her servants said, Ay, he took a wrong sow by the ear when he meddled with your ladyship.

A Scriviner's man, reading a bill of sale to his master, said, I do demise, grant and to farm lett, all my lands, &c. but on a sudden the cough took him ; at which, quoth his master read on with a pox to you, your heirs, and their heirs for ever.

One let a farm by word of mouth to a tenant who much abused it, by felling the wood, cropping the ground, and the like, as being tenant at will : the landlord seeing that, vowed he would never after let any thing without a writing ; but his wife over-hearing him, good husband, said she, recall your words, or else you cannot let a fart without writing.

A certain preacher having changed his religion for a good benefice, was much blamed by some of his friends for deserting them. To excuse himself he assured them, he should not have done it, but for seven reasons. Being asked what they were, he answered, a wife and six children.

Dr Bently being in a very numerous company at Cam-

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bridge, after the election for parliament men, a few years ago, was so elevated on their having chosen two courtiers to represent the university, that he said, now, God be praised, we've got rid of an old scab; meaning the two candidates who were thrown out. To which a gentleman present replied; ah? doctor, 'tis too true; but you will never get rid of a Boyle * that you had some time ago, which will make you uneasy as long as you live.

An honest bacchanalian, who belonged to a club at the horn tavern in Fleet Street, was chid by the chairman one night for staying so long beyond his usual time. He begged pardon for his transgression, and said he had been about an affair of moment, and which that worthy company was interested in; in short, he had been making his will; and as he had left twenty pounds to be expended by them the day of his interment, he should be glad to know where they would spend it. He told 'em that he had ordered himself to be buried at Epsom: the chairman said, they would breakfast then at Mitcham, which was half way thither, and then go and see him buried. Pray, gentlemen, says he, if I may presume to ask such a favour, I wish you'll oblige me so far as to let it all be drank at Mitcham. Your reason, Sir, replied the chairman: because, says the gentleman, I shall then have my humour to the end; for you know I always loved to be at the last bottle.

The famous Jack Ogle, of facetious memory, having borrowed, on note, the sum of five pounds, and failing in payment, the gentleman who had lent the money took occasion indiscreetly to talk of it in the public coffee-house; which obliged Jack to take notice of it; so that it came to a challenge. Being got into the field, the gentleman, a little tender in the point of courage, offered him the note to make it up; to which our hero readily consented, and had the note delivered. But now, said the gentleman, if we should return without fighting, our companions will laugh at us; therefore let us give one another a slight scratch, and say we wounded one another. With all my heart, says Jack, come, I'll wound you first; so drawing his sword, he whipt it through the fleshy part of his antagonist's arm, till he brought the very tears in eyes. This being done, and the wound tied up with a handkerchief; come says the gentleman, now where shall I wound you? Jack putting himself in a posture of defence, cried, where you can by G---d. Sir. Well, well, says the other, I can swear I received this wound of you; and so marched off contentedly.

A person said, that soldiers in peace are like chimney sweepers in summer.

* The doctor had been engaged in a controversy with the great Mr Boyle.

One of the late kings was riding a hunting, and coming to a gate which he must go through, seeing a country clown at it, said, prithee fellow open the gate: the fellow knowing who he was, said, no, and please your majesty, I am not worthy of that office, but I will run and tell Mr Holt, who is a justice of peace, two miles off, and he shall come and open it. So, he ran away, and left the king to open the gate himself.

An Irish gentleman being met by two of his acquaintance in St James's park, who observing he had got a new coat that sat very awkwardly upon him, asked him how his taylor came to make it so badly? to which the dear joy answered, that he was so unfortunate as not to be at home when his taylor took measure of him.

A country attorney appearing in a cause at the assizes, some years ago, in very dirty lining before a judge not remarkable for his integrity; Mr Justice took the occasion to reprimand him for such a contempt of the court; to which the attorney very briskly replied, that although his shirt was dirty, his hands were clean.

King Charles the second, with some of his nobles, being a hay-making, and Nell Guyn with them; quoth the king, why don't you make hay Nell? To which she said, If your majesty and your nobles will cock, I'll spread for you all.

A clownish gentleman having courted a young lady, and the marriage agreed upon, he spied a pretty mare, which he demanded into the bargain; the gentleman being unwilling to part with his mare, the match broke off. A twelve-month after, this formal wooer meets the lady at a fair, and would fain have renewed his old acquaintance; but she pretending ignorance at first, said, she did not know him! No, said he, do not you know me: why, I was once a suitor to you. "I cry your mercy, Sir, said she, now I remember you, you came a wooing to my father's mare, and she is not married yet."

Some gentleman being in a tavern, in the height of their jollity, in came a friend of theirs, whose name was Sampson. Ah, said one, we may now be securely merry, fearing neither serjeant nor bailiff, for though a thousand such Philistines should come, here is Sampson, who is able to brain them all. Sir replied Sampson, I may boldly attack the number you speak of, provided you will lend me one of your jaw-bones.

A person being being advised to venture something in a lottery: Not I, says he, for none have luck in it but rank cuckolds. Come, come, answered his wife, who was standing by, pray my dear, venture something; never fear but you will have a very good luck.

A great zealot advised one to leave off all wickedness, especially that of the flesh, and live altogether by the spirit, as

he did. Yes, says the other, I do believe you do; for sure 'twas some spirit that moved you to get your maid with child.

One Little, a mayor, sent a fellow out of malice to prison; but being to go out of his place at Michaelmas, the fellow went merrily singing,

When Michaelmas is come, and I shall be free,
I'll care as little for Little, as Little doth for me.

A sea captain's opinion being asked about a future state, he answered that he never troubled himself about state affairs.

A Scotch Gentleman being once reproached for voting against his conscience; said, the charge was false, for that he never had a conscience.

A lady ordered her Irish footman to Mr Richards, the famous staymaker, to fetch home a new pair of stays, withal strictly charging him, if it rained, to take a hackney coach. A violent shower of rain falling, the fellow returned with the stays dropping wet; and being severely reprimanded for not obeying the commands of his lady, replied, "That in truth he did take a coach, but came all the way behind as became his station."

A quaker lodged at an inn; the house being full, a damning blade came up into his room, and would have hector'd him out; but he told him 'twas his room, and by yea and nay he should not come there. The bully then began to thunder out his oaths, and struck him; but the quaker being a stout fellow, returned his blows double and treble, and at last kick'd him down stairs. With that, the master of the house sending the waiter to know the occasion of all that noise, he told him, 'twas nothing but that yea and nay had kick'd G---d damme down stairs.

When the troops kept guard in St Paul's church, a countryman heard that a troop was upon the guard which quartered in their town; so he went in, and found the man that quartered at his house: O, landlord, says the trooper, how d'ye? Thank you heartily, says the countryman, and I am vastly glad to see this blessed reformation in London; for in our town we can't get the people to church, and here the very horses come to church.

King James keeping his court at Theobald's, in a time of contagion, divers constables, with their watchmen, were set at several places, to hinder the concourse of people from flocking thither without some necessary occasion; amongst others, one gentleman (being somewhat in the garb of a serving-man) was examined what lord he belong'd unto? To which he readily reply'd, To the Lord Jehovah: which word being beyond the constable's understanding, he asked his watchmen, if they knew any such lord? they replied, No. However the constable being unwilling to give distaste, said,

well, let him pass, notwithstanding, I believe it is some Scotch lord or other.

One desired a kindness of a covetous rich miser? Yes, says he, you shall have it, if you can persuade me to it. Why, faith, says he, if I were to persuade you to any thing, it should be to hang yourself.

A certain nobleman, who has too much fortitude and greatness of soul to be shaken with every breath, was in Ireland during the late rebellion in Scotland, and one morning, when it was reported that the Roman Catholicks were about to rise, a gentleman ran into his chamber very abruptly, My lord, my lord, we're undone, says he, all Dublin is up. Why what's o'clock? says the nobleman. Ten, my lord, answered the gentleman. Why then, truly says his lordship, with seeming unconcern, I'll get up myself, for I think every man should be up at ten o'clock.

Some years ago, a door keeper at the parliament house, being suspended for taking money to let people in to hear the debates; the poor man complained to one of the members of the hardship of his case, that when his masters took money within doors, he must not be suffered to do it without.

A grave noble peer made a visit one morning to the honourable John Sp---r, who received him sitting in an elbow chair quite naked: there were loud complaints made in the town of the indecency of the action, besides the disrespect shewn to a person of such high quality: Mr Sp---r said, That he thought he paid his lordship the greatest compliment, by receiving him in his birth-day suit.

One parting a fray was cut into the skull; says the surgeon, Sir, one may see your brains: nay, then I'll be hang'd, said he, if I had had any brains, I had never come there.

A constable carried a big-belly'd wench before a justice, and said, an't please your worship, I have here brought you a maid with child. The wench call'd him fool and knave; she being reprov'd, said, he must needs be one of 'em? for, said she, if I am a maid, he is a fool to think I am with child; and if I am not with child he is a knave for saying I am.

Some thieves met a man, robb'd him, and bound him in a wood; just after, they met with another, bound him also, and laid him on the other side of the hedge: when one of 'em cry'd out, I am undone, I am undone! the other hearing him, begged most heartily that he would come and undo him too.

A gentleman meeting his godson, asked him whither he was going? to school, replies the boy. That's well, said he, there's sixpence for you, follow thy learning apace; I may live to hear thee preach my funeral sermon.

A fellow stood staring at a lady in a balcony, upon which she retired; says he, what does the sun offend you, madam? yes, says she, the son of your father and mother.

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One held a paradox, that wise men were great liars; for, said he, the old proverb tells us, that children and fools tell truth.

One night a drunken fellow jostled against a post; but thought somebody had jostled him, and fell a beating the post till his knuckles were broke. Says one to him, fie, what makes you fight with a post? how should I know it was the post, says he, why did he not blow his horn then?

A grazier sent his son to the university, and he studied poetry: his father check'd him for it; well; since you are a poet, tell me why so handsome a woman as Venus married such an ugly fellow as Vulcan? I wonder at it too, father? and yet I wonder as much why my mother married you.

One ask'd another what such a one was? he told him a proctor of the court, and doth some business of my wife's. come, said he, he doth no business of thy wife's, but does thy business upon thy wife.

A country fellow being to be catechised (who was an apprentice) the parson ask'd him, what's your name? John, says the fellow. Who gave you that name? says the parson. My godfathers and godmothers, &c. says the fellow. Well said, says the parson; and what did your godfathers and godmothers then for you? says John, Sir, they have done nothing for me yet, but they promise to do something for me when I come out of my time.

One telling his friend of the death of one whom he loved entirely. Says the t'other it's impossible, for if he had been dead, he would have sent me word, I'm sure on't.

In a storm at sea all went to prayers but one, and he fed heartily on salt meat; being asked the reason, said, he should drink more to-day than ever he did in his life.

Cobblers may be said to be good men, because they set men upright, and are very diligent in mending of soles; and of all knaves there is the greatest hope of a cobbler, for though he is never so idle a fellow, yet he is always mending.

One said, that watermen might be taken for politicians, because they look one way and row another.

A man who had stolen a watch, had the good luck to escape the constable that were sent in pursuit of him; but was afterwards taken up by others as a suspicious person, and as they were searching him, the watch was took in his pocket; a pox of this luck, says he, to escape the constable and be found out by the watch.

A poor gentleman that had trifled away his estate, being in company with some merry citizens, one would needs pass a joke up on him, saying, though citizens for the most part were younger brothers and gentlemen, the elders carried away the estates, and were bred up highly in learning; yet many times the citizens outwitted them, and got their lands: to which the gentleman replied, that it was not their wit,

but that providence order'd it so; for, says he, we get your children, and you get our estates; and it is fit the land should descend to the right heir.

A certain great lady passing in her chariot through Long-acre one morning, perceived her son coming out of a brothel; the spark having a quick eye upon his mother, retreated back into the passage in great confusion: the old lady ordered her coachman to stop at the door, and called out, my son, my son, never be ashamed at coming out of a bawdy-house; but for ever be ashamed of going into one.

A handsome young gentlewoman, of a good family and small fortune, was ask'd, why she did not apply to be a maid of honour? she answered, because she couldn't push for it.

A malefactor being brought to the gallows, when the hangman came to put the helter about his neck, desired him not to bring the rope too near his throat; for I am, says he, so thickish about that place, that I shall hurt myself so with over laughing, that it will go near to throttle me.

A drunken fellow was brought before a justice, and what question soever he ask'd him, he still said, your worships wife; then he committed him till the next morning; then he sent for him again, and told him of his idle talk the night before. Why, what did I say? why, whatsoever I said to you, says the justice, you still said, your worship's wife; that I thought thou wer't mad. Truly, says he, if I said so, I think I was mad indeed.

A young woman came to a lady to be hired, and the lady told her she was no maid. Yes, indeed, madam, says she, but I am. How can that be, reply'd the lady, when, to my knowledge, you have had a child? well, madam, says she, it was but a very little one, and do you make such a matter of that.

A simple fellow had a great love for a young maid as he thought she was, and that they might live peaceably and quietly together hereafter, he thought of this expedient: one day he told her, that it was his full intent to marry her, and, to prevent future quarrels, he said he would tell her all the secrets of his heart, that their alliance might be the stronger: amongst many other things, he told her, that in the heat of blood he had had a son by an old acquaintance of his, which child was yet living, and desired her not to take it amiss. No, no, said she, I am very well pleased, for a friend of mine got me with child, and it is a daughter; and if you intend to fortify our alliance, it may be done with another marriage, that is, between your son and my daughter.

A cobbler's wife, speaking of a street wherein she had lived before, her apprentice, mumbling said, there was none but whores and bawds lived there, what's that you said, sirrah, said she, I said, says he, there's honest women then yourself live there.

A man, complaining to his friends, that his wife's drunkenness and ill conduct had almost ruin'd him, concluded as the vulgar usually do : and for goodness sake, what's to be said for it? Nothing, that I know, says his friend, can be said for it, but much against it.

Some French courtiers passing over a bridge at Paris, saw a blind man begging, whose eye-balls appear'd so fair, that many people adjudged him to be a counterfeit : A nobleman's bastard going by, said he would try the experiment ; for, says he, if he can see, I'm sure he knows me, by reason I pass this way so often : so he goes to the beggar and pulls him by the nose. Says the beggar, roaring out, you bastardly dog what's that for? look there, says the bastard, how should he have known me if he had not counterfeited?

A gentleman meeting the duke of Rhoad's jester, asked him what was his name? why none of your name, says he. I know that, replied the gentleman; but what is your name? says the jester, my name is my father's name. And what is his name, says the gentleman? it is the same name as mine is. Then what are both your names? why, says the jester, they are both the same.

A great eater in Antwerp, having a large piece of roast-beef set before him, cut sometimes at one end, and then at the other, the woman desired him to cut it handsomely, and in one place : says he, it is no matter where I begin, for I intend to make an end of it all before I go.

A man and a woman were got into a great sugar barrel, and the constable having notice of it came in a great rage, and was resolved to send them to the round-house : O, no, said a gentleman, I pray good Mr constable, by no means: for you see they have put themselves into the round-house already.

A young fellow wished himself the richest cuckold in England. Said his mother, you are a covetous boy; has not your father enough in store for you?

One of the ambassadors from Morocco, having never seen snow, till he came into England, and observing (when it snowed) that the boys gathered it up in their hands, said, it was no wonder the English were so fair, since they washed themselves in white rain.

One having a kinswoman come out of the country, that was never at London before, invited her abroad, and having shewed her the tombs at Westminster, came with her to the king's chapel, where the organs were playing, and entering in, he took her by the hand to lead her to a convenient seat; but she held back, saying, indeed cousin, you must excuse me, I cannot dance.

A bastard was telling his friend, that he was as much beholden to such a man, as to his own father; Yes, says the other, but I believe you are more beholden to your mother,

to chuse such a father, than to your father that chuse such a mother.

A fellow blaming his sweetheart, telling her, that she was false to him, she, to clear herself, used many imprecations, bidding him, if it were so, to mark her end; nay, for that, said he, I shall not so much mark your end, as I shall your middle.

A prating woman who had lost her teeth, asked a physician the reason, she being young and healthy: I can't guess at any other reason, says he, but that your tongue grates too much against them.

A deaf fellow coming to London to sell a turkey, at Hyde Park corner had occasion to untruss a point; a gentleman passing by, intending to put a joke upon him; countryman, said he, there's a turd under you. The man thinking he asked the price of his turkey, said 4 s. master. I say there's a turd under you, said the other. It is as good as ever you eat in your life, said the fellow, either baked or roasted. You rascal, said he, I could find in my heart to kick you soundly. Chuse, said the fellow, if you won't another will.

A smart fellow crossing a late king in his hunting, he rides after him with his sword drawn; pray, Sir, says he, do not knight me before my elder brother is dead, for I am but a younger brother! which set the king a laughing, and excused his ill behaviour.

A woman that had been married but three days, call'd her husband cuckold; says her mother, you are a forward drab, to begin calling your husband cuckold already: for I have been married at least thirty years to your father, and durst never tell him of it yet.

A man of mean fortune married a handsome woman of a great estate, yet she must have a gallant, and being in private with him, told him how greatly she loved him; but the husband over hearing, said believe her not, for she has told me the same for these seven years; which made the spark run down faster than he came up.

A woman when dying, her husband asked her who he should marry? Are you in such haste, says she; why then, marry the devil's dam. No, says he, I don't care to commit incest, for I have matched with the daughter already.

Count Gondomar lying at Ely-House, desired my Lady Hatton to let him have a passage out at the back door into the fields, which she put off with a compliment: at the Count's return, he told King James, that my Lady Hatton was a strange woman; for she would not let her husband come in at the fore-door, nor he go out at the back-door.

Two widows sitting by the fire, were chattering together of their dead husbands: and one said, let us have another candle, for my poor husband lov'd light, God send him light

everlasting; and the other, let us stir up the fire, my husband lov'd fire, I wish him fire everlasting.

A gentleman was accused for getting his maid with child, and that he went into his maid's bed to do it: he to excuse it, swore he never went into his maid's bed, for the bed was his own.

A gentleman galloping furiously over plowed lands towards Thame, meeting one, says he, is this the way to Tame? Ay, says he, your horse, if he be as wild as the devil.

The late Earl of Rochester, who lived in the reign of King Charles II. happened one day to wait upon the king, when there were present the Duke of York, the Duke of Monmouth, the Duke of Lauderdale, and Dr. Frazer; who though the greatest dunce in the whole college, had yet the honour to be one of the king's physicians. His Majesty being then in a merry humour, upon the earl's coming in, says to him, Rochester, I am told you are very good at making verses extempore; is it so? The earl replied, A'nt please your Majesty, I have made verses extempore many times. Prithee, let's have some of them now; said the king. On what subject would your majesty have them? said the earl. At which the king looking about him, answered, on us that are here. I beg your majesty's pardon, replied Rochester, I dare not do it. Dare not do it! said the king, Why, so? For fear I should offend your majesty, reply'd Rochester, - No, no, you shan't offend me, said the king, say what you will, and therefore I command you to do it. Nay, if your majesty commands me, says Rochester, you must be obliged, and thereupon the earl began thus:

*Here's Monmouth the witty,
And Lauderdale the pretty
And Frazer that learned physician:
And above all the rest
Here's the Duke for a jest,
And the King for a great politician.*

O my conscience, says the king, he has satyrized us all: no wonder, indeed, that you begged my pardon beforehand, for you was resolved to stand in need of it.

At another time the king and some of his lords were at Crambo, and the word they were to rhyme to was Lisbon; they were all at a stand, and none could do't. At last, says the king we want my Lord Rochester now. Says one of the lords, I saw him but just now go into my lord chamberlain's: Upon which one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber then in waiting, was sent to tell him the king would speak with him, and the gentlemen finding my lord there, he brought him along with him. When he came into the presence, says the king, Rochester, we have been at Crambo, and none of us can make a rhyme to Lisbon. No said the earl, that's

Strange ! an't please your majesty. Why can you do't says the king? Yes, Sir, says the earl, in a Stanza, if your majesty will grant me your pardon. You're thinking of some mischief now, says the king; and then smiling upon my Lord Rochester, well, says he, I grant you my pardon. Upon which Rochester, taking a glass of wine in his hand, said,

*Here's a health to Kate,
Our Sovereigns mate,
Of the royal house of Lisbon;
But the devil take Hyde,
And the bishop beside
That made her bone his bone.*

At which the king biting his lips, and frowning at Rochester, bid him begone.

One borrowed a sum of money, and failed to pay it at the time; his creditor meeting him, began to chide him for not keeping his day. O Sir, says he, excuse me, I am not a very strict observer of set days.

One Mr Hyde had three sons, and having no estate to settle upon the youngest, told him, he must needs bind him apprentice, and bid him make choice of some trade: the youth being of a smart and ingenious temper, told him he would be a tanner. Pish, says the father, that's a nasty trade. Yes, says he, but the most convenient trade for me of any; for three hides will set me up. What hides are those, says the father? Sir, says he, yours, and my two elder brothers.

An exciseman walking by a river, seeing a boy fishing, knew him; my pretty lad, says he, what do you fish for? I fish for the devil, replied the boy, but I want the right bait to catch him. What bait is that? said the other. Indeed, Sir, I have been told, there is no better bait in the world than an exciseman.

It was frequently reported for a long time, that Queen Elizabeth was dead, and then contradicted again: one that was by swore, he had heard it so often, that he would never believe it till he saw it under her own hand.

One coming into a friend's house, saw the four seasons of the year hanging; said he, "These are very pretty; but if you had bought the whole dozen of them, it would have set off the room very handsomely."

A merry cobbler commending a cup of nut brown ale, said, let old Joan my wife chafe and chide me ever so much, if she should cut my throat, I would drink strong ale still.

A father seeing his son doing mischief, cried out, firrah, did you ever see me do so when I was a boy.

One told a baker's Son, his father was a knave: "Truly," says he, though I say it that should not say it, my father is as honest a man as ever liv'd by bread."

A gentleman having brought his friend down into his cel-

lar, his friend observing there was no seat to sit on, asked him the reason of it? Because, says the other, I will have no man that comes here drink any longer than he can stand.

A fellow that used to be drunk, when he came home wallowed about the floor, and said, he paid rent for the house, and he would ly where he pleased. At last he falls into the fire; and the maid runs to her mistress, and told her she could not get him out: "Let him alone, says she, he pays rent for the house, let him ly where he pleases."

A member of the house of commons made a most learned speech, and desired Mr Speaker to purge the house of whoremasters and drunkards: up starts another member, and desires it also might be purged of fools and knaves; and then, said he, I am confident you will have but a thin house.

A gentleman came to a widow's house, and the presented him with a cup of small beer; so coming a week afterwards, salutes him with another cup of the same beer, saying, Sir, I dare not commend the beer to you, for indeed it is dead; to which he replied, that may very well be, for it was very weak when I was here last.

A country fellow took his child in his arms, and told his wife it was none of his getting: why, says she, if a friend should help you to a good estate of none of your own getting, would you be angry? well, says he, I believe 'tis a bastard for all that. Husband, says she, how strangely you talk; how can it be a bastard, when the father got it? that's true, indeed, now I am satisfied.

A brisk young sempstress having outwitted many an airy fop, and sparkish gallant, was at last outwitted herself in this manner: a town shift, in very good habit, coming into her shop, cheapened and bargained for a considerable parcel of linen; and then pausing---said, oh! I'd like to forget one thing; I want a shirt of the largest make; it is not for myself, but for one as big again. She shewed him thereupon several; but he complained they were too strait; and she then shewed another; which he seemed to like, saying, pray, madam, do me the favour to slip it over your own cloaths; which to please and humour so good a customer, she did: then he turned her about to see how it sat, fastened privately the hinder lappets with two large pins, through all her cloaths to the hinder part of her smock; then snatching the linen he had bargain'd for off the counter, out he ran; she thereupon followed him, crying, stop him! stop him! and hastily going to pull the shift over her ears, as ashamed to pursue him in such a garment, she with it drew up all her cloaths, and exposed her naked posteriors to the public; and so ran on, still pulling to get off the shirt; whilst some matrons, who supposed her to be mad, stopped her, sensible that she ought to be covered behind: which gave the sharper an opportunity to run cleverly off with his booty.

Two going through Cambridge-market, one asked the price of 100 Burham oysters: his friend persuaded him not to buy 'em, for they were too small: too small! replied the other; there is not much loss in that, for you know I shall have the more to the hundred.

Two citizens, passing through a country village, saw a very fair house not inhabited; says one, if I had this house at London, it should not stand here so long empty.

Mr Amner hearing some gentleman persuading one to go along with them into the water that could not swim: faith, neighbour, says he, be ruled by me, never go into the water till you have learned to swim.

Some gentlemen being a drinking of ale together, one of them seeing Mr Amner going by, requested him to come and drink with them; a Londoner being there (having his horse ty'd at the door) said to one of his friends, is this Mr Amner that useth to utter the bulls? I wish he do not make a bull of my horse; which he overhearing, said, what a saucy fellow is this? you see I no sooner turn my back, but he abuses me to my face.

A gentleman having a little study, and having some company in his chamber, which desired to see it; he told them, in faith gentlemen, if you all go in, it will not hold you.

Queen Elizabeth was naturally dilatory in suits; and the Lord Treasurer Burleigh being willing to feed her humour, would say, madam, you do well to let suitors wait; for if you grant them speedily, they will come again the sooner.

One who had always been very jocose in his lifetime, when he lay on his death-bed, his clerk came and desired he would leave him a legacy: here, said he, giving him a key, in such a drawer, there is that will make you drink. Not many hours after, he died. and the youth greedily opening the drawer, found nought there but two red herrings.

The day proving very windy, whereon one was to perform a journey, who was scarce ever before farther than his street. His friends dissuaded him, saying, the wind would be very troublesome to him: oh, let me alone, said he, I will ride out of the wind.

A cambridge scholar meeting a poor ignorant peasant on the road, How far, friend, said he, is it to Cambridge? By my faith, master, says the man, I do not know; but from Cambridge to this town, it is counted seven miles.

When Tom Holland, quartering in Fleet Street had raised his landlady's maid's belly, whose name was Nell Cotton, it was wittily said, that he gave her a yard of holland, she gave him an ell of cotton, and what harm was there in that.

A journeyman shoemaker having a kindness for his mistress, his master being out of town, he importunes her to let him ly with her; but she said no, although but faintly. When night came he gets into his mistress's bed before she

came, and draws the curtains close about him; she not knowing any thing of him, undrest and gets into bed. Where being got, she felt something stir; who is there, said she? 'Tis I mistress, says he, peace. O you damn'd rogue, you devil, you dog, how dare you offer such a thing? sirrah I will have you made an example. Well, well, says he, I am sorry I have offended you, don't be angry with me, and I will be gone. "Nay, said she, you did not hear me bid you begone; now you are here, you may stay; but if ever you offer to do such another thing, I do protest, as I am an honest woman I will tell your master."

One being invited to the funeral of a smith, and to express some dissembled grief, says he, the party deceased, our brother, was an honest blacksmith, and whereas other smiths pawn their tools, he kept his vice to his dying day.

A gentlewoman loved a doctor of physick, and to enjoy him feign'd herself sick; the doctor being sent for in all haste, went up and staid with her an hour. When he came down, her husband asked him how she did? O, says he, she has had two such ex-reme fits, that if you had but seen one of them, it would have made your heart ach.

Says a lady to a nurse, that was suckling a child, are you a dry nurse? no madam, says she, I am a wet nurse, else I could not suckle the child. Ay, but says the lady, my meaning was, whether you would drink. Not too much, madam, says she, but a little when I am a-dry.

A man and his wife were chiding together, one advised them to agree as man and wife should do: "Why so we do, says he, for we are like a pack of cards, shuffle with one another all day long, but at night ly close together as friends."

A philosopher said, that men were guilty of many faults, but women were guilty of but two in all, that is, only nought in words and nought in deeds.

One said to a cobbler, he believed he would not live long, because he worked so hard, and if he did not take advice, awl would not do, for he was pretty near his end.

A man owing money, his creditor clapt him into prison, of which he made a great complaint, saying, that he had trouble enough to borrow it, and did not need to be troubled to pay it again.

A woman burying her fifth husband, a man was counting with his fingers how many she had had, and he said, she made a hand of them all.

A gentleman said no men lov'd and confided in their country so much as thieves: because they durst put themselves upon it although they were hang'd for't.

A young parson lost his way in a forest, and it being very cold and rainy, he happen'd upon a poor cottage, and desired any lodging or hay-loft to ly in, and some fire to dry him; the man told him, he and his wife had but one bed, and if he pleased to ly with them he should be welcome. The parson

thanked him; and kindly accepted of it. In the morning, the man rose to go to market, and meeting with some of his neighbours, he fell a laughing. They asked him what made him so merry about the mouth? why, says he, I can but think how sham'd the parson will be when he awakes, to find himself left a-bed with my wife.

One Mr Man, master of the ship called the Moon, used to be very familiar with a gentlewoman; and her husband taxing her with another gentleman; she swore she knew him no more than she did the man in the moon.

A man having a strong opinion that his wife had often corrupted him, for an experiment to find out the mystery, he cuts off the spurs of several young cocks, and with some soft wax, stuck one upon his forehead, and came to his wife; look here thou naughty woman, said he, this is the fruit of your lewdness. You are an unworthy man, said she, I ne'er wronged you in my life. I have now prayed, says he, to Jupiter, that I may have so many horns as thou hast been false, and he has sent me one already. Nay, said she, if it be of Jupiter's sending, 'tis in vain to dispute his register; I must confess, once I did transgress, but it was much against my inclination, with a lusty young groom, for which I ask your's and Jupiter's pardon with all my heart. Then he clapt on another young horn, and taxed her further. Indeed, said she, I have a very frail memory, but I perceive Jupiter is much in the right, for I remember another time, with one of the brewer's porter's. Well, said he, I will never leave praying to Jupiter, 'till I have compleated the number of all thy treasons, and I do already feel some more budding forth. Pray husband, said she, let me beg of you on my knees, leave doubting of Jupiter, for I know not but if you continue praying, you may have horns all over.

An old gentleman being sick of an imposthume, and the servants expecting his death, took what they could and went away: an old ape seeing what the rest did, found an old hat of his master's, and seeing the rest of his servants bid him adieu, he put his hat off, and bow'd to him: at which the gentleman laughed so heartily that his imposthume broke and he recovered.

A Scholar blowing his fire, the nose of the bellows dropt off; says he, I see it's cold weather, for the nose of the bellows drops.

One that kept an inn to entertain thieves, and laid up for 'em what they had stol'n, always had, as he call'd it, a snack cut of it. At last, his house being mistrusted 'twas searched, and he found to be an abettor, though not a robber; still he follow'd them for his snack; so he and his two partners were condemned. As they were going to execution, one of the thieves laugh'd; and being ask'd why he did so, he said, he could not otherwise chuse to see his landlord come in for his snack.

A gentleman told a rumper, in waggery, that he had spoke something in the house he would be question'd for. Sir, says he, I believe you mistake the man, for upon my faith, Sir, I never spoke one word since I sat in the house; only this, I told 'em the windows were broke, and it was requisite they should be mended to keep the cold out.

When Oliver lay in state in Sommerfet house, a great cavalier came to see the ceremony, and having viewed it well, said it was the most glorious sight he ever saw in his life, and pull'd out a piece of gold to give 'em! they told him no money was to be taken: nay, gentlemen, says he, I am not only willing to give this piece now, but I would as freely have given five hundred of 'em, if I could have seen this sight twelve years ago.

A Quaker that was a barber, being sued by the parson for tythes; yea and nay went to him, and demanded the reason why he troubled him, seeing he had never any dealings with him in his whole life: Why, says the parson, it is for tythes! says the Quaker, I prithee friend, upon what account? why, says the parson, for preaching in the church. Alas! then, replied the Quaker, I have nothing to do with paying thee; for I come not there. O! but you might, says the parson, for the doors are always open at convenient times. And thereupon told him, he would be paid, saying it was his due. Yea and nay hereupon shak'd his head, and making several wry faces, departed, and immediately entered his action (it being a corporation town) against the parson for forty shillings: the parson upon notice of this, came to him, and very ho'ly demanded, why he put such a disgrace upon him; and for what he did owe him the money? Truly friend, replied the quaker, for trimming. For trimming, said the parson; why I never was trimmed by you in my life: "Oh! but thou might'st have come and been trimm'd, if thou hadst been pleased, for my doors are always open at convenient times as well as thine."

One that had the looking after a chapel, gave a charge to the rest to let in none of the crowd before the great persons were come and seated; thereupon going to the veltry, and looking into the chapel, he espy'd a great many people; at which, being angry, he told one of the vergers, I am afraid you'll be turned out of your place, for you have filled the chapel full of people before any body comes in.

In the great rebellion, when the city of London had works cast about it; one said the city would be much stronger, if the Thames run on the north side thereof: to which another replied, that might easily be done; it was but removing the city to the south side of the Thames.

A young fellow having been very extravagant, writ to his father for more money, and used all means, but nothing would prevail; at length he very ingeniously writ his father word

he was dead, and desired him to send up money to pay for his burial.

Mr Ralph Amner, the bull-speaker when he was sick, well, said he to his friends, when I am dead, let this be my epitaph; Here lies honest Ralph as dead as any man living.

At another time, going through St Clement's church-yard; if I live and do well, says he, I'll be buried in this place.

At another time, he with some of his friends, being invited to the funeral of a gentleman not far from Windsor, whither coming and finding a house full of company, they were content to sit them down in an arbour; and having sat a considerable time after they had been served with rosemary and gloves, Mr Amner went into the house to enquire how long it would be, before the corpse went to church? but finding it already gone, he came hastily to his friends, saying to them, come, come, what do you mean to stand sitting there? they are gone, (and pointing over the wall) shewing them the corpse and people in the next field; he said, do you not see? they are out of sight already.

One ask'd a scullion of a kitchen (who was very witty) how he came to have so much wit; he answered, why, where should it be unless in the scull.

An old man being drunk, his son came to fetch him home: sirrah, said he, have a care of me, my head is very light: "O father, said he, that's long of your eyes, for if they were out, your head would be in the dark."

A gentleman talking of one Mr Kay, who was a very facetious person, liken'd him to one of the quarters of the world, meaning America.

Henry the fourth of France, being given to the love of other women besides his Queen, was sharply reprov'd by a rich abbot his confessor; which the king seemed to take very well, and invited him that day to dine with him, where the abbot fed very heartily upon a dish of roasted partridges, which the king observing, asked him, why he did not eat of some other dishes which he thought better: the abbot told the king, nothing could be better to him than roasted partridges, for it was his beloved dish above all others. The next day the king caused the abbot to be arrested for high treason, and committed close prisoner to the Bastile, with a strict command to the keeper to let him have no meat but partridges; which at first pleased the abbot, but having been fed with nothing but that diet for a week together, he began to nauseate it: at eight days end the king sent for him, under pretence of examining him; and having urged him to a confession of the treason he charged him with, the abbot pleaded his innocence and confessed nothing: well, said the king, since you are so obstinate, you must e'en go to prison again: to which the abbot replied. I beseech your majesty, if I must still be confined, that I may be ordered some other diet. Why, what

diet have you? said the king. Nothing, said the abbot, but partridges. Why, said the king, you told me that was the diet you lov'd above any thing in the world. 'Tis true, I do, says the abbot, but to be always fed with partridges, that makes me loath it, and desire another diet. Very well, reply'd the king, it is just so with me my lord, I love my queen above all women in the world; but my lord, always the Queen, always the Queen, this is too tiresome, and makes me sometimes desire change of diet as well as you do: and so laughing at the abbot, set him again at liberty.

A man having a wry nose, one told him, he knew what his nose was made on, and what it was not made on. Why, said he, how's that? why, says the other, 'tis not made of wheat, it's made o'wry.

Three citizens walking in the fields, one said, we should have a great year of black-berries; for, said he, the last week I plucked a handful of the fairest red black-berries that ever I saw. A second laugh'd at him, saying, red black-berries is a bull. But the third, with much gravity, justify'd what the former had said, and very sagely questions, are not black-berries always red when they are green.

A man at Christmas drinking of March beer, which was very mellow, complained of the newness of it, and said, surely this March beer cannot be above six weeks old:

A gentleman being at a tavern, seeing a saltseller of foul salt, call'd very angrily to the drawer, and bid him bring up some fresh salt.

One seeing a very fat man pass by, said, he never saw a larger man of his bigness in his life.

A man and his wife were striving who should wear the breeches; in the mean time one knock'd at the door, the good man steps out to see who was there, and asked the party who he would speak withal; who answered with the master of the house. Stay, friend, says he, but a little while, and I shall resolve you, for as yet the case is doubtful. So stepping in his wife and he went to it again, who at last yielded him the victory. He then went again to the door. Now, friend, said he, thou may'st speak with me, I am the master of the house; but I could not tell thee so before, till my wife and I had decided the controversy.

One walking abroad in a clear moonshine night, said, it was as fine a night as man should see in a summer's day.

A fiddler was bragging what a chaste wife he had. Says a merchant, I'll lay my ship against your fiddle, that I'll get her good will to ly with her, the wager was laid, and he had the liberty to try her; the fiddler at the same time at the window sung this song;

"Hold out, sweathheart, hold out,

"Hold out but these two hours;

"If thou hold out, there is no doubt,

"But the ship and all is ours.

Her ANSWER.

"Indeed, sweet Robin, I cannot,

"He hath caught me about the middle;

"He hath me won, and thou art undone.

"Sweet Robin, thou hast lost thy fiddle."

Some were saying, in such a town in Norfolk, they were all counted whores. A mad fellow hearing them say so, presently swore he believed it; for his mother, and both his sisters were born there.

A Wellshman seeing his master tearing some letters, pray, Sir, give hur one, says he, no matter which, to send her friends, for they have not heard from hur a great while.

A Puritan coming to a cheesemonger's shop to buy cheese, when he gave him a taste, he put his hat before his eyes to say grace. Nay, said he instead of tasting it, I am afraid you intend to make a meal.

One that was troubled with a damnable shrew, would often wish her in heaven; she in a great rage replied, she had rather see him hang'd first.

A man was bragging, that he was promised a lease of the next house that fell; says another, had it been my case, I should rather have desired the lease of a house that stood.

A farmer being rich, was knighted, his wife thereupon grew very fine. One said, that his worship was very much in fault for spoiling a good housewife to make a mad-dame.

A gentleman having a very fat daughter, offer'd a great portion with her. Says the other, Sir, a quarter of her is enough for me; therefore pray find out another husband for the rest.

A gentleman requested a thing of an unchaste woman. No, says she, had I a hundred, you should have none 'em. Well, said he, I knew the time when you had but one thing, and you'd let a friend use it.

A gentleman, who had a numerous family, observing once at a table, that thank God he could digest any thing, another asked him how he digested his ten children. Oh, Sir, replied the gentleman, I bring them up.

A man, very rich, but very silly, was recommended to a gentleman as a good match for his daughter. No, no, said he, I would rather have a man without money, than money without a man.

A deserter just a going to be turned off the ladder, gave a silver cup to a grey frier, his confessor. Jack Keich, being vexed that he had given it to the friar, rather than to him, pray, father, said he to the religious, since you are paid for it, e'en hang him yourself.

Charles king of Sweden, a great enemy to the Jesuits, when he took any of their colleges, would hang the old Jesuits, and send the young ones to his mines, saying, since they are so very diligent above ground, he would try how they would work under ground.

A physician boasting his great knowledge in the profession, said he never heard any complaint from his patients; a bystander wittily replied, very likely, doctor, for the faults of physicians are generally buried with their patients.

King Charles the second, and the Duke of Ormond, discouraging of the prettiest women of the several countries, says the king to the Duke, my lord, you have very pretty women in Ireland, but they have great legs, O, that's nothing, please you my leige, we lay them aside.

A citizen having new built his house, he was praising the conveniency of it, and how light it was. For, says he, the morning sun lies all day upon it.

A covetous man was used to promise much, and perform little; upon which, one said to him, "By my troth, Sir, you would be the finest man in the world, if purse strings hung at your mouth."

A bishop having, in a grave subject of divinity, sprinkled many witty ornaments of learning, King James told him they were like the blue, yellow, and red flowers in corn; which made a pleasant shew, but hurt the corn.

A gentleman being in a croud, a thief pick'd his pocket; his man being behind him (and hur was a Welshman) drew out hur knife, and cut the thief's ear off, and cry'd, give hur master hur purse, and hur will give hur hur ear again.

One was tried for having five wives at once, and four of them were proved he was lawfully married to: then the judge asked him why he married so many? he said 'twas only to make trial among so many to find one good one, with whom he might spend the rest of his life. Truly, says the judge, I am certain you'll find none such in this life, and therefore I shall take care, that you may go and seek one in another: and so condemned him.

A collegian, famous for punning, was taken to task by one of the heads of the university. Who told him, that his puns were a scandal to him though ever so much intempord. The punster replied, Sir, my puns are all extempore.

The French king having a lady in his private apartment, commanded that no one should enter till his majesty gave orders for his being seen. An officer happening to come at that time with an express, was very importunate to be admitted; but being denied, was obliged to wait till a lady in green had come out of the king's closet, soon after which he was introduced; and enquiring of his majesty's welfare, the king told him he had been somewhat indisposed, but was then perfectly recovered. The officer replied, I believe your majesty was

troubled with the green sickness, for I saw it go out at the door.

One seeing a friend going before him in the street, call'd hallo. A haughty German, passing by at the time, asked what business he had to cry hallo, while he passed by, D---n you, says the Englishman, what business had you to pass by, while I was crying hallo?

The late Duke of Somerset, having presented one of the colleges with a collection of pictures, a gentleman was desirous to see them, and for that purpose, asked one of the collegians where they were: to which he replied (looking about and pointing) Some-are-set here, and Some-are-set there, but where they really are set I know not.

A little gentleman going to a friend's house, found himself too short to reach the knocker, at last seeing a very tall fellow coming by begg'd him to do it for him; which (tho' very unwillingly) he did, at the same time muttering, damn it, what are little fellows like you made for? the other replied, to be waited on by tall ones like you.

A regent in the university of Cambridge being to preach the next day after his commencement, chose his text out of Job: "We are but of yesterday and know nothing." His sermon was divided into two parts, 1. Our standing, yesterday. 2. Our understanding, we know nothing.

At a stage play at Oxford, a Cornish man was brought in to wrestle with three Welchmen, one after another: and when he had worsted them all he called out, as his part was, have you any more Welchmen? which words so exasperated a gentleman of Jesus college, that he leaped upon the stage, and threw the player in earnest.

In the year 1649 the new president and fellows of Magdalen college, caused the picture of our Saviour to be taken down out of the window of their chapel (in which is represented the day of judgment) but left the picture of the devil standing; whereupon a countryman seeing what had been done, said, blez uz, what a reformation is here; what! pluck down God and zet up the devil. But this picture was again set up in 1675.

On the 25th of August, 1633, or much about that time, Dr Potter presented one of his books to the king, intitled, charity mistaken. A prebendship of Windsor was designed him for his reward, then likely to be void by the promotion of the Bishop of Gloucester to Hertford. It was thought that Dr Heylin should have been the man, and many of his friends, especially Neal Archbishop of York, put him hard upon it; but it did not move him, only so far as to make this epigram upon it, and so pass'd it by;

When Windsor prebend late disposed was,
One ask'd me sadly how it came to pass

Potter was chole, and Heylin was forsaken?

I answer'd, 'twas by----charity mistaken.

But the Bishop of Gloucester (goodman) was not removed, so the business ended.

Ben Johnson, after he had been created master of arts, at Oxford, 1619 returned to London; but his friends being scrupulous of it, would be often asking him, but are you indeed master of arts; Yes, he replied, without question.

A poor cavalier corporal, being condemned to die wrote this letter to his wife the day before he expected to suffer, thinking it would come to hand after his execution.

“ Dear wife,

“ Hoping you are in good health, as I am at this present writing: this is to let you know that yesterday, between the hours of eleven and twelve, I was hang'd drawn and quarter'd, I died very penitently, and every body thought my case very hard. Remember me kindly to my poor fatherless children.

“ Yours, til death,

W. B.”

A scholar lock'd out of his gates at college, desired his friend within to get him the keys. His friend, Mr Phil. Hayes, of New College, answers, Sir, you had better come in and speak yourself, for I think I shall scarce procure them.

'Tis reported of one of the chaplains to the famous Montrose, that being condemn'd in Scotland to die, for attending his master in some of his glorious exploits; and being upon the ladder, and ordered to set out a psalm, expecting a reprieve, he named the 119th psalm (with which the officers attending the execution complied, the Scotch presbyterians being great psalm singers) and 'twas well for him he did so; for they had sung it three parts through, before the reprieve came: any other psalm would have hang'd him.

A minister who was travelling in the west of England, happen'd to stop at a village on Sunday, and meeting with the church warden offered to give them a sermon: the church warden asked him, if he was licenced to preach? yes, quoth the minister; and pull'd out a licence in Latin; truly quoth the church warden, I don't understand Latin, but pray let me look upon your licence, for I may perhaps pick out a word here and there. No, good Sir, quoth the minister, I'll have no words pick'd out, for I wont have my licence spoiled.

Jack Ketch, on hearing of Morgan's, the noted highway-man, escape, said, to be sure, at present he had lost a fee, but was in hopes of gaining twenty by it. As how, says his man? why by impeaching his companions, cries Jack---but suppose he has no companions, cries the man, Psha! psha!

says Jack, then how the devil could he have got out of Newgate.

An old woman in the country, who constantly regaled herself with a pint of ale, and a pipe or two of tobacco for breakfast; was asked by an arch wagg, her reason for preferring ale and tobacco to coffee and tea. Why, says the old damsel, the ale cheers my heart, and the tobacco warms my stomach? It would equally do the same replies the youth, were you to stick a pipe in your A---se. That I'll do, cries the old woman, if you'll smoak it.

An Irishman having had a great dispute with his sweetheart, in the heat of blood, resolved to make a-way with himself, for which purpose he went into his landlady's dining room, having brought a pair of pistols; and after loading them, walked towards the glass; the landlady who suspected his intentions, ran up stairs, and came just time enough to see him discharge his pistol into the glass, upon which she cried out, Oh! Oh! I'm ruined, and undone for ever. And so am I, says paddy, for I have just now kill'd the handsomest man in the world.

A priest being embarked aboard a ship, which sailed from France to America. The captain, who saw rough weather a coming, said to him, father since you are not used to the sea, the rolling of the vessel may be dangerous to you, go down to the hold, and as long as you hear the seaman swear and blaspheme, you may know by this that all goes well, but whenever you hear them take leave one of another, and to be reconciled, then it is time for you to recommend yourself to the Almighty. The jesuit sent from time to time to another passenger at the hatch, to find how matters went. Alas! father, said he, all is lost, for the sailors swear as if they were possess'd with the devil, their blasphemies alone, are sufficient to sink the ship. The father answer'd, bravo, bravo; cheer up, cheer up; take heart, and all will be well.

A taylor having a quarrel with a fellow in the street, was observed to express himself in the following terms:---I'll trim him a dog, I'll stick in his skirts, I'll pick a hole in his coat, a scoundrel; gentlemen, I don't value him of a button, not a shred. I'll bring it to a suit, he shall have a stone doubler. Does the rascal think I am a goose? he has cut out work for himself. What though my fortune is a little overcast, I am not fine drawn, as he is, a cabbage-fed blaggard. I've a good bottom. Nobody can say I'm without a stitch to my back. He may be as sharp as a needle if he will, but he shan't break the thread of my discourse. It is well he sheered off, or I would have baisted the scoundrel.

A young lady was saying in company, I have this day visited a gentleman who behaved very kind to me, and said a great many fine tender things; but I knew there was no sincerity in what he said, for he only pissed down my back. O,

a nasty fellow, said another lady then present, if he had served me so, I would have cut his spout off.

A dear joy carried a letter to a gentleman from his master, Arrah, says Macfrane, but I have brought you a letter dear honey, from my master, and he desires an answer directly. Let's see't, says the gentleman. Let's see't, says Mac, hey! and is it game you are making now? no bee my shoul, let me have the answer first, for the Dible fire me now, an you fling me so. Why you fool, replies the other, how can I answer it before I see what it's about? by my canshawnes, says he, that's a likely matter, my master should write to you, and you should not know what it's about, but the dible burn me if you have the letter till I have the answer. Arrah, faith--- no tricks upon travellers, and so your Shervant.

An Irishman went to a Shoemaker's shop, and told the master he wanted to buy a pair of shoes; accordingly he handed him a pair, with the toe of one (as usual) thrust into the other. The Irishman put on his old shoes again in a great passion, and told the shoemaker he was a cheating knave, to offer to give him a pair of brogues, that the little one was big enough to hold the great one in his belly.

A gentleman who was remarkably near sighted, when he went to a coffee house in a morning, took his man with him to read the news, though in reality a very illiterate fellow, but the gentleman being familiar to most of his blunders, could tollerably tell his meaning; as, he was reading among the casualties, a paragraph was put concerning a gardener, who was cutting creepers a top of a house; he read ---last Monday as a grenadier was cutting capers a top of a house, he tumbled down and broke his neck. God bless my soul Tom, says the gentleman, that never can be, read it again; it was read again---the same, still a grenadier cutting capers a top of the house; says the gentleman, what business has grenadiers to cut capers, and a top of a house too, 'tis for dancing masters to cut capers, and not fellows in jack boots. At last comes up a gentleman of his acquaintance, which he begged to read that passage to him, it is a very odd one, if it is as my man reads it; I can't think it can be so; I can make out most things he says but this, says he: When the gentleman read, a gardiner cutting creepers at a top of a house, fell down and broke his neck. You dunderpate, says he to the man, did not I always say your head was made of bullets. Yes, Sir, says the man, thinking to mend the matter, I'll take care to reprove myself that it shall be a little lighter soon.

A lady ordered a sun-dial to be made, and the maker brought it home with this motto:

"Time rapid flies, embrace it man;
Alas! thy life is but a span.

The lady immediately ordered it to be altered thus:

"To us on earth few years belong--"

"This life is but nine inches long.

An arch boy being at a table where there was a piping hot apple pye, putting a bit into his mouth, burnt it so that the tears ran down his cheeks. A gentleman that sat by ask'd him, why he wept? Only, said he, it is just come into my remembrance, that my poor grandmother died this day twelve-month. Phoo, said the other, is that all? so whipping a large piece into his mouth, he quickly sympathiz'd with the boy; who seeing his eyes brim full, with a malicious sneer, ask'd him, why he wept? "A pox on you, said he, because you were not hang'd, you young dog, the same day your grandmother died."

In Admiral Hawke's last engagement with the French, a sailor on board one of the Ships had a leg shot off, whereupon one of his mess-mates took him down to the surgeon, and at the same time took his leg off the deck, and put it under his arm; he was no sooner brought down, but another of his mess-mates began shaking his head, and telling him, He was very sorry he had lost his leg. "That's a d--m'd lie, you son of a b---h, reply'd he, for see here, I have got it under my arm."

A couple of justices, walking in the city of York, espied a woman in a corner, relieving nature from the pressure of a burden which she could not contain any longer: one of them cried out pointing to the squatting fair, brother, brother, what a shameful thing this is! I vow, this is a matter that deserves to be looked into. The other, being a more sensible man, prithee, brother, answered he, do you look into it then, but for my part, I am satisfied with the smell.

A jury being summoned to attend the coroner of Middlesex, to sit on the body of a woman who had hang'd herself. An Irishman going by, on seeing them enter the house, asked, what was the matter? and being told they were going to sit on the dead body. Arrah, now, says he, then I'll be d--m'd if so many don't squeeze her to death.

An old woman that had never seen a monkey in her life before, and coming to Bedford market, saw one riding on a dog's back, and the dog running away with him. Says she, I am afraid that young gentleman will fall by and by, he rides so fast. And when she saw he did not, then she cried out, well rid, young gentleman; well rid young gentleman; in truth he's a good horseman.

A young woman living with an old lady, could never do any thing for her, but she would find fault with it, to whom the girl used to cry, O dear madam, you are so curious penurious, there is no such thing as pleasing ye.--The woman was determined to know the meaning of curious penurious;

and going to St Paul's school, told one of the boys, she would give him six-pence to tell it her. Why, replied he, curious penurious is Latin; and the English is, you hatchet-face old bitch, will ye eat any grains.---The old woman went home red hot with her knowledge, and immediately fell upon the girl. I'll curious penurious ye, for an impudent whore. Ye hatchet face old bitch, will ye eat any grains! what did ye think I should never learn Latin, with a pox to ye, for a brazen faced bitch.

A graceless son asked his mother, who was pretty ancient, what she did out of her grave so long? I wait to read your dying speech, answered the mother.

An Irish fellow, in a bad state of health, applying at St Bartholomew's hospital, told the physician who examined him, that he had water in his head. I suppose, said the doctor, you have a swimming there. Why ay, my dear honey, reply'd teague, so I have; but how could that be, if there was not water there.

A country farmer riding to a merry meeting on an easy horse, drank very plentifully till night came on, and his senses fled. At which one of the company resolved to pass a joke upon him, by persuading the rest to mount him on his horse with his face to the tail, and turn the horse loose who knew very well the way home: so up they mounted him, away went the horse a foot-pace, till the farmer fell asleep, and in an hours time the horse was at home, and presently fell a neighing. At which his wife came with a candle in her hand, and seeing her husband in that condition, began to take on bitterly, and waking him, told him the greatness of his sin, &c. Upon which he rubs his eyes, and looking about, cries out in a great passion, phoo, hold your tongue woman; nothing vexes me so much, as that the plaguy rogues should cut my horse's head off.

A templer going at Christmas into Yorkshire, to see his father, took some other templers along with him; and in one of the holidays, he would have 'em to an alehouse hard by, where the woman was deaf; so coming thither, oh, my young master, says she, I han't seen you these seven years. Then he thinking to abuse her, drank to her, saying, here's to thee, and to all the rogues, whores and bawds in England; she seeing his lips go, but hearing him not, said, come, Sir, I'll pledge you, for I know you drink to your father, and your mother, and those good gentlewomen your sisters.

A woman desired of her husband some money to buy her a broad silver and gold lace to lay on her petticoat. To which he answered, No; for, said he, once make you a goldsmith, and you will prove a wag tail all your life after.

Two English officers, after a night's lodging in the highlands, found their beds covered with vermin. One of them was very busy in taking off the slowest kind, which the other

observing, cried out, Z-----ds, what are you doing? let us first secure the dragoons; we can take the foot at leisure.

An Irish servant being struck by his master, cried out, devil take me if I am certain whether he has killed me or no; but if I am dead it will afford me great satisfaction to hear the old rogue was hang'd for killing me.

The old Earl of Derby, who lived in the reigns of James and Charles I. wore such plain apparel, that he could not be distinguished by his garb from the better sort of farmers; and coming to court in his ordinary habit, was denied entrance into the privy chamber by a fine dressed Scot, who told him that was no place for ploughmen, that none came there but gentlemen, or such as dressed like gentlemen. The Earl replied, he wore the cloaths he used to wear, and if the Scots did so, they'd make but a mean figure in the English court. The king hearing a dispute at the chamber door, came out to know what occasioned it; to whom the Earl said, nothing, my liege, but your countrymen having left their manners and their rags behind them in Scotland, neither know themselves nor their betters. The king being angry at the affront offered to so great a man, said, my good Lord Derby, I am sorry for the affront given you by my servant; and, to make your lordship satisfaction, I will command him to be hang'd, if your lordship desires it. The Earl replied, that is too small an atonement for the affront put upon my honour, and I expect his punishment should be more exemplary. "Name it my lord, said the king, and it shall be done." Why then, said the earl, I desire your majesty will send him home to Scotland again.

A French soldier, being to be hanged for desertion, begged very hard of the general, that he would grant him one small favour after he was dead, which he promised he would. This however did not satisfy the poor fellow, who fell on his knees and begged he would swear to it: upon my honour then I will, says the general.---And what may this favour be, which you have begged so hard to be granted after you are dead? only to kiss my a---se, says the soldier. Ay, is it so! says the general, then set him at liberty immediately; for I had much rather pardon his crime while living, than kiss his a---se when dead.

An old woman asking a gentleman (as he lay a dying) if he knew her not, he answered, yes, very well; an old bawd thou art upon my life. She answering, said, it was not well for him to say so now when death was approaching him. Nay, says he, it is best telling of truth at the hour of death.

A gentleman seeing his footman with an old greasy hat on, which hung slouching on all sides; who gave you (said he to him) that hat of a cuckold? Sir, replied the fellow, it is one of yours, and was given to me by my mistress.

A country fellow getting into a gentleman's orchard one

night, with the design of robbing a mulberry tree, had not been long in it, before one of the men and one of the maids came just under the place where he was, which made him ly as snug as he could, 'till the business they came about was over ; when the chambermaid began to give vent to those fears which the the fury of her appetite would not admit into her thoughts before. Lord, John, said she, now you have had your filthy will, what if I should prove with child, who will take care of it? There's one above, replied John I hope will provide for it. "Is there so?" said the countryman, but I'd have you to know that if I provide for any body's bastard, it shall be one of my own begetting."

An Irishman enquiring for one he wanted, at the place of his lodgings, was told by the landlady below, that if he went up two pair of stairs backward he would find him. Teague mistaking the woman, imagined the word backward, by which she intended the situation of the room, denoted the manner in which he was to go to it, and accordingly thither he mounted with his arse foremost, cursing his friend bitterly, when he had laboured to the top, for living in a place that could not be come at without a man taking such a plaguy deal of pains, and turning his face behind him.

The End of the JESTS.

R U L E S

F O R T H E

T A V E R N A C A D E M Y,

From the Latin of BEN JOHNSON, engraven
in Marble over the Chimney in the Apollo
of the Old Devil Tavern, at Temple-Bar;
that being his CLUB ROOM.

AS the fund of our pleasure, let each pay his shot,
Except some chance friend by a member brought in,
Far hence be the sad, the lewd fop and the sot,
For such have the plagues of good company been.

Let the learn'd and the witty, the jovial and gay,
The generous and honest compose our free state:
And the more to exalt our delight while we stay,
Let none be debarr'd from his choice female mate.

Let no scent offensive our chamber infest;
Let fancy, not cost prepare all our dishes;
Let our carterer mind the taste of each guest,
And the cook in his dressing comply with their wishes.

Let's have no disturbance about taking places,
To shew your nice breeding, or out of vain pride;
Let the drawers be ready with wine and fresh glasses.
And let them have eyes, tho' their tongues must by ty'd.

Let our wines without mixture, or stum be all fine,
Or call up the master and break his dull noddle.
Let no sober bigot here think it a sin,
To pull on the chirping and moderate bottle.

Let the contest be rather of books than of wine.
Let the company neither be noisy nor mute.
Let none of things serious, much less of divine,
When belly and head's full, profanely dispute.

Let no faucy fidler presume to intrude,
Unless he is sent for to vary our blis,
When mirth, wit, and dancing, and singing conclude,
To regale ev'ry sense with delight in excels.

Let raillery be without malice or heat;
Dull poems to read let none privilege take.
Let no proetaster command or intreat
Another extempore verses to make.

Let argument bear no unmusical sound,
Nor jars interpose sacred friend to grieve:
For generous lovers let a corner be found,
Where they in soft sighs may their passions relieve.

Like the old lapithites, with the goblets to fight,
Our own 'mong offences unpardon'd will rank;
Or breaking of windows, or glasses for spight,
And spoiling the goods for a rakehelly prank.

Whoever shall publish what's said or what's done,
Be he banish'd for ever our assembly divine?
Let the freedom we take be perverted by none,
To make any guilty by drinking good wine.

C O N U N D R U M S

- 1 **W**HY is a drunken man like Wales?
- 2 Why is a mad-man like two men?
- 3 Why is the gallows the last refuge of a condemned man?
- 4 Why does a dog turn round before he lays down?
- 5 Why is a dancing master like a tree?
- 6 Why is a tavern like a table?
- 7 Why is a man with a bad memory like a covetous man?
- 8 Why is a key like an hospital?
- 9 Why is a condemned malefactor like a cannon?
- 10 What is a man like that is in the midst of a great river and cannot swim?
- 11 Why is a skittish young horse like a coy young girl?
- 12 Why is a brewer's horse like a tapster?
- 13 What is a man like that is in the midst of a desert without meat or drink?
- 14 Why is a man that runs in debt like a watch?
- 15 Why is a neat prim lady like a book?
- 16 Why is a drunken man like one swimming?
- 17 Why is a red-hair'd lady like a band of soldiers!
- 18 Why is a man in a ship like a kitchen dresser?
- 19 Why is a thing bought like an old mended shoe?
- 20 Why is the New Market like the admiral of a squadron?
- 21 Why is rotten cheefe like a strong man?
- 22 Why is a man that lays wagers on a game, like a man that helps another to steal?
- 23 Why is a band of soldiers drawn up in battle array like a woman's bosom?
- 24 Why is a fisherman like a man who cuts his tradesman's bills off short?
- 25 Why should a taylor have all manner of filth and nastiness thrown on him?
- 26 Why is an unbound book like a lady in bed?
- 27 Why is a poor man like a sempstress?
- 28 Why is a drawn tooth like a thing forgot?
- 29 Why is Richmond like the letter R?
- 30 Why are turn'd coats like sailors?
- 31 Why is a whoremaster like an East-India supercargo?
- 32 Why is a river like a sore dog?
- 33 Why are turnips like men and their wives?
- 34 Why are most pieces of villany like a match?
- 35 Why is a man going to a play like a sailor?
- 36 Why is a book like a tree?
- 37 Why is a tennis court like a house full of scolds?
- 38 Why is a watchman like a mill horse?
- 39 Why is a bad man like a bad pen?

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- 40 Why is a fine woman like a diamond?
- 41 Why are wagers like eggs?
- 42 Why is a teller at the bank like a collier?
- 43 Why is a cook like a person in a salivation?
- 44 Why is a man on horseback like a fan?
- 45 Why is a lady in her shift like the Hague?
- 46 Why is a person that refuses old Hock like a school boy?
- 47 Why are illuminations like the lungs?
- 48 Why is a goaler like a musician?
- 49 Why is a little girl in arms like a woman that comes before her time?
- 50 Why is money like a whip?
- 51 Why are there no women lawyers as well as men?
- 52 When may we think a woman past recovery?
- 53 Why are women fitter for the study of astronomy than men?
- 54 What kind of book may a man wish his wife were like?
- 55 Why are whoresmasters said to be like ferrets?
- 56 What kind of water is most deceitful?
- 57 What was the first game that was ever play'd at?
- 58 By what measures do women like to trade?
- 59 What may be said of women that marry young?
- 60 What creatures bear best?
- 61 Why are women the weaker vessels?
- 62 Why is it impossible to ravish some women?
- 63 What kind of jointers do women like best?
- 64 What kind of sickness are most women subject to?
- 65 What makes most women alike?
- 66 Why do women spit when men talk bawdy?
- 67 Why is a tea-kettle and lamp like a quaker?
- 68 Why is a picture like a member of parliament;
- 69 Why is a bad fire like an old maid?
- 70 Why is a woman in bed like five pence three farthings?
- 71 Why is an apothecary like a woodcock?
- 72 Why is a whore like an exciseman's book?
- 73 Why is an eye like a thief at the whipping post?
- 74 Why is a wainscotted room like a reprieve?
- 75 Why are the remains of a leg of mutton like Windor?
- 76 Why does an ox drivel?
- 77 Why is the house of C---ns like an account book?
- 78 Why is an old man like a girl?
- 79 Why is an old man's young wife like an hot bun?
- 80 Why is a troop of horse like a dead man?
- 81 Why is an organ like the new river head?
- 82 Why does a miller wear a white hat?
- 83 Why is a whore like a comet?
- 84 Why is your wig like a butcher's shop?
- 85 Why are widows fit for beggars?
- 86 Why is a soldier like some doors?
- 87 Why is a saddle like a mule?

- 88 Why is a peevish man like a watch?
- 89 Why is a parish bell like a good story?
- 90 Why is a little man like a good book?
- 91 Why is a crooked woman like a country brown loaf?
- 92 Why is a lean man like a neck of mutton?
- 93 Why is a horse like a coy wench?
- 94 Why is a cribbage-board like a new married lady?
- 95 Why is a big-belly'd woman like a fine gentleman?
- 96 Why is a dead man proud?
- 97 Why is a lady's face like Dr Rock?
- 98 Why is a man in a passion like a lady's smoke?
- 99 Why is an impertinent fellow like a waterman?
- 100 Why is an ax like a dish of coffee?
- 101 When has a goose the most feathers on?
- 102 Why is a pretty lady like an oat cake?
- 103 Why do lady's wear clogs?
- 104 Why is hope like an old shoe?
- 105 Why are some authors and booksellers like sailors?
- 106 Why is the sun fire-office like an impudent fellow?
- 107 Why is an old woman like a chitterlin?
- 108 Why is parson Whitefield's gown like charity?
- 109 Why is a fine girl like a highwayman?
- 110 Why is a scold like a tennis player?
- 111 Why is a fat man like a Cornish borough?
- 112 Why is your right hand like Eve?
- 113 Why is an impudent fellow like a trader?
- 114 Why is a nobleman like a book?
- 115 Why is a lewd woman like a frosty morning?
- 116 Why is a false note like a bar of iron?
- 117 Why is the archbishop of Canterbury like a weathercock?
- 118 Why is the post like a woman with child of a boy?
- 119 Why are whores like rogues?
- 120 Why is a good cook like a woman of fashion?
- 121 Why is a poet like a cat?
- 122 Why is a canon like a taylor?
- 123 Why is the moon like a weathercock?
- 124 Why is a bad shoemaker's shop like hell?
- 125 Why is a taylor like a sprout?
- 126 Why is Ireland like a bottle of wine?
- 127 Why is the house of Lords a hungry place?
- 128 Why is a good sermon like a plumb pudding?
- 129 Why is a silly fellow like a fleece of wool?
- 130 Why is a man that has taken physic like a whore?
- 131 Why is my Lord Mayor like an almanack?
- 132 Why is a barrel of beer almost out like a country waggon?
- 133 Why are weak eyes like meat nicely dress'd?
- 134 Why is a good coach horse like a good painter?
- 135 Why is orator Henley like a pastry cook?
- 136 What trade is most common in London?
- 137 Why is a grave digger like a waterman?

- 138 Why is a taylor like a lawyer
- 139 Why is a drunken man like a pack-horse
- 140 Why is smoke of tobacco like wine
- 141 Why is a fine woman like a diamond ring
- 142 Why is the court like a pack of cards
- 143 Why is a common whore like a squirrel
- 144 Why is an old maid like a turn tile
- 145 Why is swearing like an old coat
- 146 Why is a whore contrary to all other trades
- 147 What is that which God never sees, kings seldom see,
but I often see
- 148 When is a girl's most taking motion
- 149 Why is his majesty often like a parson's horse
- 150 Why do whores seldom play upon the square
- 151 Why does a certain old statesman's mistress shew no marks
of the whip
- 152 Why ought ladies that paint to be treated as pirates
- 153 Why is there at present so great a call for men
- 154 Why is a boy on Shrove-Tuesday like a pretty girl
- 155 Why are Sally Tuffnell's eyes like the devil
- 156 Why is a whore like an Inn-keeper
- 157 Why are many tradesmen like a toad
- 158 Why are girls in their teens like an old crazy ship?
- 159 Why are the people of England abused
- 160 Which is the wonderful plant
- 161 Why is a kept Miss like a rudder
- 162 Why are some patriots like Hannibal
- 163 Why is a gun like a woman
- 164 Why are Rochester's works like a chimney-sweeper
- 165 Why are some great men like glow-worms
- 166 Why are forward girls like a lucky merchant
- 167 Why is a girl like the first step towards a treaty
- 168 Why is Britain like a child
- 169 Why is marriage like a curtain
- 170 Where would you, pretty lady, clap you hands if a man
come into the room when you was stark-naked
- 171 What is cried up most when least in season
- 172 Why do we buy new shoes
- 173 Who was the first that bore arms
- 174 What is that God never made, and commanded not to be
made, and yet was made, and has a soul to be saved
- 175 Where was Adam going when he was in his 39th year
- 176 Who was it that was begot before his father, born be-
fore his mother, and had the maidenhead of his
grandmother
- 177 When Tobit went out, his dog went with him, but he
went neither before nor behind, nor of one side.
Where then did he go
- 178 Why are fish like gamblers
- 179 Why is St Thomas's hospital like a wild rabbit

- 180 Why is Christ Church, Oxford like the walls of a fortified town
 181 Why is the city of Bath like a watch
 182 Why is a hungry Man like a razor
 183 Why is a man's leaning on crutches like a man kept by the parish
 184 Why is Westminster abbey like an alehouse
 185 Why is a tatling fellow like a third day ague
 186 Why is a painter the emblem of deceit
 187 Why is a quaker like a poker
 188 Why is a sharper like a pack of cards
 189 Why is a good scholar like a post-master
 190 Why is the world like a Cheshire cheese

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A KEY to the CONUNDRUMS.

- 1 **B**ECAUSE he is rocky.
- 2 Because he is a man besides himself.
- 3 Because he has nothing else to depend upon.
- 4 Because he goes about to lie down.
- 5 Because he is full of bows.
- 6 Because it has drawers in it.
- 7 Because he is for getting.
- 8 Because it has wards in it.
- 9 Because he's cast.
- 10 Like to be drowned.
- 11 Because he is loath to be mounted.
- 12 Because he draws drinks.
- 13 Like to be starved.
- 14 Because he goes a tick.
- 15 Because she's in print.
- 16 Because he's in liquor.
- 17 Because she bears firelocks.
- 18 Because he is aboard.
- 19 Because it is fold.
- 20 Because it is in the fleet.
- 21 Because it is mitey.
- 22 Because he is abetting.
- 23 Because they are a brest.
- 24 Because he baits much.
- 25 Because he is a common-sewer.
- 26 Because it is in sheets.
- 27 Because he makes shifts.
- 28 Because it is out of the head.
- 29 Because it is beyond Kew.
- 30 Because usually press'd.
- 31 Because he often goes to Bombay.
- 32 Because it runs.
- 33 Because they are pared.
- 34 Because they are brought to light.
- 35 Because he goes to sea.
- 36 Because it is full of leaves.
- 37 Because there is many rackets in it.
- 38 Because he goes his rounds.
- 39 Because he wants mending.
- 40 Because she is a jewel.
- 41 Because they are laid.
- 42 Because she handles the coal.
- 43 Because she spits much.
- 44 Because he is mounted.
- 45 Because she is in Holland.
- 46 Because he declines hoc.

- 47 Because they are lights.
- 48 Because he fingers the keys.
- 49 Because she is miss-carried.
- 50 Because it makes the mare to go.
- 51 Because they would lay their cases too open,
- 52 When she is speechless.
- 53 Because they ly on their backs.
- 54 An almanack; for then he might have a new one every
year.
- 55 Because they creep so much into coney-holes.
- 56 Women's tears.
- 57 Child getting.
- 58 The yard.
- 59 That they begin to take upon them betimes.
- 60 Asses and women.
- 61 Because they are soonest crack'd.
- 62 Because they are willing.
- 63 Body to body.
- 64 The falling.
- 65 The dark.
- 66 Because it makes their mouth water.
- 67 Because it is moved by the spirit.
- 68 Because it is a representative.
- 69 Because it wants pocking at the bottom.
- 70 Because she is under a tester.
- 71 Because he has a long bill.
- 72 Because she is often enter'd.
- 73 Because it is under the lash.
- 74 Because it saves hanging.
- 75 Because it is near Eaton.
- 76 Because he can't spit.
- 77 Because there are many cyphers in it.
- 78 Because he is bald.
- 79 Because she wants to be well butter'd.
- 80 Because it is a corps.
- 81 Because it is full of pipes.
- 82 To cover his head.
- 83 Because she has a fiery tail.
- 84 Because there is a calf's head in it.
- 85 Because they are relicts.
- 86 Because he is listed.
- 87 Because it is between an horse and an a---se.
- 88 Because he is wound up.
- 89 Because it is often toll'd.
- 90 Because he often look'd over.
- 91 Because she is made a-wry.
- 92 Because he is craggy.
- 93 Because he'll say nothing but neigh.
- 94 Because it is pegg'd up and down.
- 95 Because he shews her breeding.

Ben Johnson's JESTS.

27

- 96 Because he is stiff.
- 97 Because he is often in a mob.
- 98 Because he is ruffled.
- 99 Because he often puts in his oar.
- 100 Because it should be ground before it is used.
- 101 When the gander's upon her.
- 102 Because she is often toasted.
- 103 To save their soles.
- 104 Because it makes the people easy.
- 105 Because they commit piracy.
- 106 Because it deals in assurance.
- 107 Because she is shrivell'd.
- 108 Because it covers a multitude of sins.
- 109 Because she makes a man stand.
- 110 Because she loves bawling.
- 111 Because he seldom sees his member.
- 112 Because it bears a cane.
- 113 Because he has a good flock.
- 114 Because he has a title.
- 115 Because she is whory.
- 116 Because it is forged.
- 117 Because he is at the head of the church.
- 118 Because he bears a mail.
- 119 Because they are both common.
- 120 Because she dresses well.
- 121 Because of his muse.
- 122 Because it make's breaches.
- 123 Because it often changes.
- 124 Because there are bad souls in it.
- 125 Because he will cabbage
- 126 Because there is a cork in it.
- 127 Because they have no commons.
- 128 Because there are reasons in it.
- 129 Because he is soft.
- 130 Because he is loose.
- 131 Because he serves but a year.
- 132 Because 'tis tilted.
- 133 Because they are full of gravy.
- 134 Because he draws well.
- 135 Because he deals in puffs.
- 136 Shift-makers; or, perhaps, the old trade of basket making;
- 137 Because he handles sculls.
- 138 Because he deals in suits.
- 139 Because he has got his load.
- 140 Because it comes out of the pipe.
- 141 Because she is surrounded with sparks.
- 142 Because there are knaves in it.
- 143 Because she covers her back with her tail.
- 144 Because she stands in every body's way, and stops no-body.

- 145 Because 'tis a bad habit.
- 146 Because she sets up without credit, and too much buff-
ness breaks her.
- 147 An equal.
- 148 When she is prick'd forward.
- 149 Because minister ridden.
- 150 Because they rarely play metal to metal.
- 151 Because she is only fixed with an old fox's tail.
- 152 Because they attack under false colours.
- 153 Because the women join in the national demand.
- 154 Because he no sooner sets a cock up than down with him.
- 155 Because they are as black, and full of mischief.
- 156 Because she keeps a stable for any to set up their horses
in.
- 157 Because they break with over-swelling.
- 158 Because they are fit to break up.
- 159 Because they are mis-represented.
- 160 That which grows in the hand.
- 161 Because she has her rake.
- 162 Because they trifled away their victory.
- 163 Because it has an apron over the touch hole.
- 164 Because they are smutty.
- 165 Because it must be dark indeed when they shine.
- 166 Because their commodities have an early vent.
- 167 Because the overture is made before the material point is
entered in.
- 168 Because every rattle amuses and diverts it.
- 169 Because it often serves for a blind.
- 170 On the man's eyes.
- 171 Almanacks.
- 172 Because nobody will give them us.
- 173 Adam.
- 174 A cuckold.
- 175 Into his 40th Year.
- 176 Cain.
- 177 On the other side.
- 178 Because they feed upon one another.
- 179 Because it's in the borough (burrow).
- 180 Because it has cannons.
- 181 Because it depends upon the spring.
- 182 Because he's sharp set.
- 183 Because they support him.
- 184 Because it is open to all comers and goers.
- 185 Because he is troublesome.
- 186 Because he flatters.
- 187 Because he's stiff.
- 188 Because he shuffles.
- 189 Because he's a man of letters.
- 190 Because 'tis round.

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EPIGRAMS.

EPITAPHS, TALES, FABLES, &c.

A DESCRIPTION of the MORNING.

By Doctor SWIFT.

NOW hardy here and there an hackney coach
 Appearing, shew'd the ruddy morn's approach:
 Now Betty from her master's bed is flown:
 And softly stole to discompose her own;
 The slipshod 'prentice from his masters door,
 And par'd the dirt and sprinkled round the floor;
 Now Mell had whirl'd her mop with dextrous airs,
 Prepar'd to scrub the entry and the stairs.
 The youth, with broomy stump began to trace,
 The Kennel edge where wheels had worn the place,
 The small coal man was heard with cadence deep,
 Till drown'd by shriller notes of chimney sweep.
 Duns at his lordship's door began to meet,
 And brick-dust Moll had scream'd thro' half the street,
 The turnkey now his flock returning fees,
 Duly let out a-nights to steal for fees.
 The watchful bailiffs take their silent stands,
 And school-boys lag with satchels in their hands.

Written in a Lady's prayer book.

IF you, fair Sylvia, hope the gods will hear,
 And kindly give admission to your pray'r;
 Then you, like them must with compassion move,
 And not be cruel to an ardent love;
 Which your bright eyes did in my breast inspire,
 And none but you can quench the amorous fire.

To Butcher GOFFE, extempore.

IFind, old friend, I am mistaken---
 Pray where's the fitch of well dry'd bacon,
 Thou said'st thou would transmit to me,
 By thy own waggon, carriage free?
 I tell thee thou dost seem afraid,
 As if thou never should'st be paid.
 Of Shilling's twelve, the sum, 'tis true,
 Already is thy lawful due?
 And thou art sensible, twelve more
 Exactly make a pound and four;
 That sum I promise thee to pay,
 Perhaps the latter end of May:
 Or if it can't be quite so soon

Thou shalt be sure to ha't in June,
Then prithee send it in a trice,
To thy obedient slave. H. Price.

Received this money of the poet,
Witness my hand that all may know it.

WILL. GOFFE.

Wrote in a prayer book belonging to one of the maids of honour. By Dr Swift.

WHEN Israel's daughters mourn'd their past offences,
They dealt in sackcloth, and turn'd cinder wenches;
But Richmond's fair ones never spoil'd their locks.
They use white powder, and wear Holland smocks.
O comely church! where females find clean linen,
As decent to repent in, as to sin in.

An EPIGRAM.

SIR Thomas Fr---l---d marries at threescore,
The charming Celia, eighteen and no more;
You'll say this marriage sure must prove a curse,
Why so! she has a husband, he a nurse;
Nevertheless, hard is poor Celia's lot.
She has a husband,----s if she had not.

Wrote by a Lady in her prayer book.

OF T on my knees at church I've been,
One pray'r my first and last;
A husband is the thing I mean,
Good Lord! I am in haste.

An EPIGRAM.

'TIS said, when first resistless love,
To cast his darts began.
He turn'd his skill and pow'r to prove
Great Jove into a swan.
Experience now can fairly shew,
That still the wedding noose,
Whether the passion's false or true,
Oft make's a man a goose.

On Mrs T---s. By Dr Swift.

SO bright is thy beauty, so charming thy song.
As had drawn both their beast and their Orpheus along;
But such is thy av'rice, and such is thy pride;
That the beast must have starv'd and the poet have dy'd.

The TOWN JILT.

HOW foolish is the spark to trust the lass.
Who robs him of his nose before his face?
For 'tis the nature mostly of a wench,
To borrow English coin, but pay in French.

A country Quarter Sessions.

THREE or four parsons, three or four 'squires,
 Three or four lawyers, three or four lyers;
 Three or four parishes bringing appeals.
 Three or four hands and three or four seals;
 Three or four bastards, three or four whores.
 Tag, rag, and bob tail three or four scores;
 Three or four bulls, three or four cows *.
 Three or four orders, three or four bows;
 Three or four statutes, (not understood,)
 Three or four paupers praying for food:
 Three or four roads that never were mended.
 Three or four scolds----and the session is ended.

* Alluding to the orders about the distemper'd cattle.

A dialogue at Tunbridge between ROGER and his brother DICK.

AH! Dick, said Roger, I have been,
 Where such a fine sight I have seen,
 That hadst thou seen the like, my boy,
 Thou never would'st forget the joy.
 You never saw a finer thing
 Than I, said Dick, who saw the king,
 Roger reply'd in merry strain,
 Why prithee, hast thou crack'd thy brain?
 I tell thee Dick, I've seen what he,
 (God blefs him) would be glad to see.
 Nay, nay, quoth Dick, if such the sight,
 Proceed to tell thy tale outright.
 Why so I will, if you will hear,
 I'll plainly make the thing appear:

This morn I left my plough and ran
 With bonny Susan, Kate, and Nan,
 To see an ass race on the plain:
 We made such haste, for we were told,
 That men would ride all lac'd with gold,
 We wonder'd much, such is their pride,
 That lords and squires would asses ride.
 What numbers of fine folks were there!
 Lord! at the show how we did stare;
 Some rode in coaches split in twain;
 To view at once the showy twain:
 Fine beaux in chaises seem'd to fly,
 Flutt'ring like paper kites on high:
 Full in the midst were asses led,
 With gaudy trappings all bespread,
 Who, with deportment grave and wise,
 All this fine show seem'd to despise.
 Fair nymphs to see and to be seen,

And smiling with alluring mein,
 Stood in the stand, all in a row,
 And pleas'd behold the crowd below,
 The gazing croud so press'd and teaz'd me.
 That underneath the stand they squeez'd me,
 Where, thro' the crannies I could spy,
 More pleasing charms with half an eye
 Than those abroad that gaz'd so high.
 White legs, thin's taper, and that same,
 Which tho' I saw, I dare not name!
 It would have made thy glad heart leap,
 But to have had one single peep.

Here Dick cry'd out, and laugh'd aloud,
 A mighty sight to see a crowd!
 And pray, how common 'tis dear brother,
 To see the asses ride each other?
 The gilded chariots, coach and chaise,
 I should have gaz'd at with amaze;
 But what you saw beneath the stand,
 The thing most common in the land;
 For such a sight you need not roam,
 ----- Susan can shew as good at home.

PRUDENCE and TRUTH. *A fable, after the manner
 of Fontaine.*

ONCE it fell out as poets say,
 When time and light has been at play,
 The last prov'd big---a trick of youth,
 And brought old time a daughter truth;
 This virgin when she left her house,
 Came up to court to look a spouse;
 But sad alas! her fortune there,
 How wild says one the creature's air.
 How blunt the wench another cries;
 A third spy'd madness in her eyes!
 Thus us'd, poor truth was forc'd to rove,
 For none pretended (to her) love:
 Art was the reigning toast, and she,
 Could never with plain truth agree.
 Vex'd to the soul, the virgin goes;
 To wilds and woods she speaks her woes;
 And as through these she chanc'd to stray,
 Fortune threw prudence in her way:
 Seeing bright truth, the goddess said,
 How fares it lovely looking maid?
 Why heave these sighs, why fall these tears?
 Can harmless truth have real fears?
 With grief at this her bosom swells,
 For sobbing, scarce her tale she tells:
 Dear cousin, said with smiling air,

The goddesses---“ Tho’ divinely fair,
 “ From every stain of guilt tho’ free,
 “ Yet nakedness becomes not---thee.
 “ Be then advis’d---put on some cloaths,
 “ No more, all bare, these limbs expose,
 “ Nor trust your conduct quite to chance,
 “ But learn to speak---nay learn to dance;
 “ Good breeding borders not on vice;
 “ Be both in dress and virtue nice.

EPITAPH on a parish clerk at Weston in Cheshire.

THERE lies entomb’d within this vault so dark,
 A taylor, cloth draw’r, soldier, and a clerk.
 Death snatch’d him hence, and also from him took
 His needle, thimble, sword, and prayer book,
 He could not work, nor fight, what then?
 He left the world, and faintly cry’d ---Amen.

SIMPLE SIMON, or, who was to blame. A Tale.

QUOTH Simon to Thomas (and shew’d him his wife)
 “ See Thomas! see here! the delight of my life;
 “ Look at her again!----did you ever behold
 “ Such sweetness enshrin’d in so charming a mould;
 “ For conjugal virtue she never had peer,
 “ To me, all engaging; to others, severe.
 “ But then to enjoy her! good gods! such a feast
 “ Were fit for a monarch, or even a priest.
 “ Would she but consent, you should taste of the bliss.
 “ This man’s my acquaintance, Sue grant him a kiss.
 Sue yielded; and Thomas accepted the grace,
 The husband sat by and beheld the embrace;
 O’erjoy’d that his wife should so far condescend,
 As to honour her Spouse, by obliging his friend.
 How suddenly Cupid can poison impart!
 It pass’d thro’ the lips, and it tickled the heart.
 They ey’d one another with mutual good-will;
 And Simon commending his moiety still.
 “ Friend Thomas, you’ll visit your neighbour again.
 “ Your treatment shall always be hearty and plain.
 “ From eleven till two I am daily at change.
 “ At any time else, Sir---pray do not make strange!
 Tom promis’d, the bottle went once more about,
 And they most courteously lighted him out,
 Sue added her compliment too at the door,
 “ My husband has mention’d the time, Sir, before:
 “ From eleven till two he’s never at home---
 “ I hope, Sir, you’ll do us the honour to come.
 Tom’s word was repeated: the sense of the promise
 Appear’d in the eyes of both Susan and Thomas.
 But Simon was blinded with love of the dame---
 If Susan was visited, who was to blame?

An unseasonable Surprise.

AS Tom laid Moll beneath a shade,
 To play a game for maidenhead;
 With smacking bufs, and chuck o'th' chin,
 A prologue to the future scene!
 He thus address'd his bowzy Molly.
 Nay, pish, this coyness is a folly!
 Unwilling! blush! nay, p'shaw,---my dear!
 My love, came we for nothing here?
 Alas! quoth she, should I prove fruitful,
 You know, at best, that would suit ill.
 Pish, then, if that's thy care, my Moll,
 There's one above provides for all.
 To which, quoth Sly, upon the tree,
 Your brats, and you, be damn'd for me.

*On a Man's Choice whether he would be hanged or married, by
 the Earl of Rochester.*

LO! here's the bride and there's the tree.
 Take which of these best likest thee,
 The bargain's bad on either part;
 The woman's worst; drive on the cart.

On a MISER.

OLD Cornus the miser, whose money was stole,
 Complain'd to his wife, he was rob'd of his soul;
 If it is, says the dame, to the right owners gone,
 The De'el has your soul, and the money sir John.

A SONG.

TO Cælia thus fond Damon said,
 I wish, my dear, you'd go to bed,
 I'm sure it's very late;
 Besides the wine I've drank, he cry'd,
 Has made me almost stupify'd,
 It to distracts my pate,
 Some women would their husbands scold,
 But Cælia, worth her weight in gold,
 Has no such habit got;
 Her lovely cheeks bedew'd in tears,
 Cries love, I'm in ten thousand fears,
 That you will grow a sot.
 Drinking, my dear, I'll soon leave off,
 Or learn to know when I've enough,
 And home return to thee;
 Believe, for once, your Damon's word,
 Sweet angel, you may be assur'd
 I'll not a drunkard be.
 His promise set her heart at rest,
 She Damon kiss'd herself undrest,

They joyful went to bed;
But what was done when they were there
I know not, nor I do not care,
So let no more be said.

Sent in a Snuff Box.

THINK, and some useful lesson 'twill impart,
That when you open it, you open my heart;
Think, when you see this present from your lover,
Yourself's the bottom, and that I'm the cover.

On being expelled a Lady's Company.

THUS Adam, look'd, when from the garden driv'n
And thus disputed orders sent from heav'n:
Like him I go, tho' to depart I'm loth:
Like him I go, for angels drive us both.
Hard was his fate, but mine still more unkind;
His Eve went with him, but mine stay'd behind.

The hardship put upon the Ladies. By Dr S---t.

Poor ladies! tho' their bus'ness be to play,
'Tis hard they must be busy night and day.
Why should they want the privilege of men.
Nor take some small diversions now and then?
Had women been the makers of our laws,
(And why they were not, I can see no cause)
The men should slave at cards from morn to night,
And female pleasures be to read and write.

The LOVERS Game at Cards.

My love and I for kisses play'd,
She would keep stakes, I was content;
But when I won she would be paid,
Which made me ask what she meant.
Nay, since, says she, I see your wrangling vein,
Take you your kisses, and I'll take mine again.

*Wrote in a Lady's common Prayer Book, upon resolving to dis
a Maid.*

FLING this useless book away,
And presume no more to pray;
Heaven is just, and can bestow,
Mercy on none, but such as mercy show;
With a proud heart maliciously inclin'd
Not to increase, but to decrease mankind,
In vain you vex the gods with your petition,
Without repentance or sincere contrition,
You're in a very reprobate condition.

An EPIGRAM.

SCARCE had five months expir'd since Ralph did wed,
When lo! his fruitful wife was brought to bed.
How now, quoth Ralph-----this is too soon my Kate?
No Ralph quoth she-----you marry'd me too late.

Ben Johnson's JESTS.

The DIMPLE.

SYLVIA the young, the fair, the gay.

A verdent bow'r inclos'd;

The little wanton, tir'd with play,

In downy sleep repos'd.

A bloom so like the peach's hue,

Her glowing cheeks exprest,

A bird, eluded, eager flew

And seiz'd the luscious feast.

Ah lucky spoil, tho' rude th' alarm,

And Sylvia weeping rose,

Since to the wound its smiling form,

That killing dimple owes.

CELIA's Complaint: An EPIGRAM.

AS Celia once to Damon did confess,

Her husband's impotence, and ask'd redress;

Young Damon answered---cuckold him my dears,

Such worthless apes should horns for ever wear.

To which the nymph reply'd with graceful ease,

Ah! Sir, I can't---but you may if you please.

Wrote by a Boy on his Sister's breaking a drinking Glass.

SEE, Sister, in this shatter'd glass,

The fate of many a pretty lass;

Woman, like glass, is frail and weak,

Is apt to slip, is apt to break;

Therefore guide every step with caution.

For just like glass is reputation;

Both broke to pieces in once falling,

For ever lost, and past recalling.

An EPIGRAM.

AS good Mr Crape with my lord was at dinner,

(For Crape may be frequently found with a sinner)

Mr Parson, said he, just now on my life,

I've cast off my miss, will you take her to wife?

For tho' I've a little use made of my Nancy,

She'll turn when she marries a parson, I fancy.

She may turn please your honour, the parson reply'd,

But I'll never turn to your miss as a bride;

For what by your lordship at night and in morning,

She's been so much used she'll not be worth turning.

An EPIGRAM.

COMING a tender girl from school,

Marrying, I met a thund'ring fool;

But fit for love's embraces grown,

I've got a man that's next to none.

The first with youth's too vig'rous warmth inspir'd,

With love's untasted joy's my weakness tir'd;

My second grunting spark, cold to love's charms,

He fills my bed, 'tis use, but not my arms.

When I had no appetite love cloy'd me;
Now I've amind to't, 'tis deny'd me;
Oh! Hymen, Hymen, for my quiet,
Contract my stomach, or enlarge my diet.

The EXCHANGE.

WHILE careful scold's his daughter Molly,
And tells her she's undone;
By lying with her lover Jolly,
Their neighbour's eldest son,
My maidenhead's gone, indeed, (cries miss)
Yet what care I a farthing,
I gave him it, but then got his,
And pleasure into the bargain.

An EPITAPH on the Earl of KILDARE.

WHO kill'd Kildare? who dar'd Kildare to kill?
Death kill'd Kildare, who dare kill whom he will.

An EPICRAM on bad Dancers to Music.

IN vain Apollo wakes the sounding lyre,
And from dead embers calls the living fire;
While fools, unguided by the tuneful sound
In aukward measures dance the maizy round:
Thus Orpheus sung: and thus the beasts obey'd,
Mov'd in such order to the tunes he play'd.

ON CELIA. An EPICRAM.

BY artful glances, and inviting smiles,
Celia first hints her skill in am'rous toils;
Returns each Ogle from Philander's eyes,
And with him languishes, and with him sighs.
At length, the happy man dares speak his flame,
The willing fair too deigns to own the same;
With melting kisses takes him to her arms,
And seems at once to give him all her charms:
Yet she inexorable, still denies
The only thing, for which her lover dies.
Celia should know, that woman's conduct's such,
She does too little, or she does too much.

To a young Lady on the Receipt of a VALENTINE, extempore.

MADAM,

I Take it very kind of you,
Who for your valentine me drew;
So when we shall together meet
Whether i' the house, or open street,
Perform your promise, think on this,
Forfeit you must to me a kiss:
Welcome you are to three or four,
Nay, if you please to half a score.
Happy i' thrice bless'd I needs must be,
When one so fair salutes me.
What shall I say? 'tis bravely done,

And kisses double will return :
 For if I here miss on my aim,
 You will a coward me proclaim.
 But what ? if I my service proffer,
 I hope you'll not refuse the offer ;
 For had I known as much before,
 (By Jove) I'd told you something more :
 But mum for that--if me you claim,
 Expect a present for the same.
 Witness my name, witness my hand,
 Your most obedient to command, R---H---

The P O E T's Lamentation.

TEN pounds I sav'd, and bought a ticket,
 Hoping a prize through fortune's wicket ;
 But the sly jade has play'd a prank,
 And in its stead sent forth a blank :
 I think they err, who say she's blind,
 The rich alone her favour's find :
 To merit she has no regard,
 Nay, rather robs than aids the bard,
 I lose six pounds to gain her smile,
 The profit of my midnight toil,
 Now darkling sing, for want of oil,
 How hard my fate ! no more I'll trust her,
 But lean on reason, she is juster ;
 She warn'd me of this dire event,
 Sa d, in the end I should repent.
 So to my brethren of the quill,
 This consolation I'd instill :
 Fortune's a foe to men of wit,
 These rarely find a lucky hit :
 The sons of dulness share each prize.
 They are her groveling votaries.

TOM RAMBLE's Conversion.

TOM Ramble t'other Sunday after dinner,
 Who had these ten years been a horrid sinner,
 Left all his companions in the lurch,
 And wisely took a pious trip to church ;
 Where something very moving was relating,
 Which strangely prov'd so very penetrating.
 That if the truth is by his friend inserted,
 Tom ever since that time has been converted.
 Go where he will, so much to good he's leaning,
 Religion's all the subject of his meaning.
 He's bid adieu to Nancy, Kate and Polly,
 To smiling Chloe, Sue, and buxom Dolly,
 To shun ill paths, like Tom, is mighty wise ;
 And I'm in hopes he'll hold it till he dies ;
 With little care, he now may heaven merit,
 Unless he lets the flesh, o'ercome the spirit ;
 For if the carnal part should prove prevailing,

He'll meet some poor unhappy quaker's failing.
And then in spite of every virtue past,
Must die a wicked protestant at last.

From RABELAIS.

LONG John to bed, went to his bride,
And laid a mallet by his side:
What means this mallet John, said she,
Why 'tis to wedge thee home, quoth he;
Alas! cryed she, the man's a fool
What need you use a wooden tool?
When lusty Will does to me come,
He never shoves but with his bum.

*On a Gentleman who ran mad with the Love of a Physician
Daughter.*

EMploy'd to cure a love distracted swain,
The boasted aid of Hellebore is vain;
None but the fair, the storm she rais'd, can calm,
Her smiles the cordial, and her tears the balm:
In Cynthia's bosom dwells the magick pow'r,
Sovereign to heal, and vital to restore.
But oh! what med'cine e'er could reach the heart!
The daughter's eyes have foil'd the father's art.
For matchless were the learn'd physician's skill,
If he could cure as fast as she can kill.

EPIGRAM, By an old Batchelor.

THE have-wives and lack-wives, by century write
The one---because bitten, the other to bite.
From whence we infer the best rule to be given,
To live here on earth as the saints do in heaven.

An answer to the old Bachelor's EPIGRAM.

By a Young Bachelor.

SINCE your temper's so sour, and so cold your complexion,
That the charms of the fair cannot win your affection,
Live saint like on earth still, nor fear to be told,
He can never be young who always was old.
But by your good leave, Sir, my rule too's one line,
You may be your own carver, but shall not be mine.

EPIGRAM.

IF what the * bard asserts, for truth we take,
"That every woman is at heart a rake."
'Tis custom only, not a virtuous cast,
Makes maids so shy, or keeps our wives so chaste,
And since all men would fain secure that same,
Who can the Turk or the Italian blame?

* Mr POPE.

A N S W E R E D.

THOU' padlocks and seraglios safeguards are,
True love, well fix'd, surpasses both by far:
Those may secure you a cold lifeless dame,

While this brings with the fair an equal name :
 Scorning the Italian then, and Turks low arts,
 Nought regales Britons, but the ladies hairs.

HUMBLE WISH. *By a young Lady.*

I Ask not wit, nor beauty do I crave,
 Nor weakh, nor pompous titles wish to have;
 But, since 'tis doom'd thro' all degrees of life,
 Whether a daughter, sister, or a wife;
 That females should the stronger males obey,
 And yield implicit to their lordly sway :
 Since this, I say, is ev'ry woman's fate,
 Give me a mind to suit my slavish state.

To CELIA, on her desiring me not to talk of Love.

CAN I refrain from love, tho' but a youth ?
 Unskill'd in wiles, and what I speak is truth ;
 No airy prospect shall my bliss destroy,
 To life's last hour I will my love enjoy.

A SONG to the Tune of Lumps of Pudding.

OF all my experience how vast the amount.
 Since fifteen long winters I fairly can count,
 Was ever poor damsel so sadly betray'd
 For to live to these years and yet still be a maid:
 Ye heroes triumphant by land and by sea,
 Sworn vov'ries to love, yet unmindful of me ;
 You can storm a strong fort or can form a blockade,
 Yet ye stand by like dastards, and see me a maid.
 Ye lawyers so just, who with slippery tongue,
 Can do what you please or with right or with wrong :
 Can it be or by law, or by equity said,
 That a boxom young girl ought to die an old maid ?
 Ye learned physicians whose excellent skill,
 Can save or demolish, can cure or can kill ;
 To a poor forlorn damsel contribute your aid,
 Who is sick---very sick---of remaining a maid.
 Ye sops I invoke not to list to my song,
 Who answer no end, and to no sex belong ;
 Ye echoes of echo, and shadows of shade,
 For if I had you I might still be a maid.

*On a certain Collector of the Excise, having deluded a young
 Woman to cohabit with him.*

Collectors, for the public trustees made,
 Ought to secure the duties of fair trade ;
 But to the great dishonour of his post,
 This turns free booter on th' unguarded coast ;
 A virgin by false colours, he's trapann'd,
 And run a wit and beauty contraband.
 Of civil, sacred property, th' invader
 Both robs the church, and smuggles the fair trader.

Ben Johnson's JESTS.

To the incomparable Miss G---c---t.

AS with a friend on Sunday last,
I tript along the Mall;
Snigg'ring at each powder'd beau,
And gazing at each belle:
A sudden buz run thro' the crowd,
With "there! that she in green,"
I could not for my soul devise
What all this noise did mean:
At length advancing farther on
Where still the hum increas'd,
I saw you lovely maid--I did,
And then my wonder ceas'd.

Written in a young Lady's Almanack.

THINK bright Flotella when you see
The constant changes of the year,
That nothing is from ruin free,
And gayest things must disappear.
Think of your glories in their bloom,
The spring of sprightly youth improve,
For cruel age alas! will come,
And then 'twill be too late to love.

The Gossips Tale under the Rose.

TWO gossips they merrily met,
At nine in the morn' before noon;
And they were resolv'd for a whet,
To keep their sweet voices in tune:
Away to the tavern they went,
Quoth Joan, I do vow and protest,
That I have a crown never spent,
Come let's have a cup of the best:
And I have another perhaps,
A piece of the very same sort,
Why should we sit thrumming of caps,
Come drawer and fill us a quart:
And let it be liquor of life,
Canary that sparkling wine,
As I am a buxom young wife
I love to be gallant and fine:
The drawer as blyth as a bird,
Came skipping with cup in his hand;
Dear ladies, I give you my word,
The best shall be at your command:
A quart of Canary he drew,
Joan fill'd up her glass and begun;
Here's gossip a bumper to you,
I'll pledge thee girl wett in a tun;
And pray gossip did you not hear,
The common report of the town;
A man of five hundred a year,

Is married to doll o'the town.
 A draggle tail'd slut o' my word,
 Her cloths hanging ragged and foul :
 In troth he would fain have a bird,
 That would give a great for an owl.
 And she had a sifter last year,
 Whose name they call'd draggle tail'd Pegg,
 She'd take up a straw with her ear,
 I'll warrant her right as my leg :
 A brewer has got her with child,
 But e'en let them brew as they bake ;
 I know she was wanton and wild,
 But I'll neither meddle nor make :
 Nor I gossip Joan, by my troth,
 Tho' nevertheless I've been told,
 She stole seven yards of broad cloth,
 A ring and a locket of gold :
 A smock and a new pair of shoes,
 A flourishing madam was she ;
 But Margery told me the news,
 And it ne'er shall go farther for me :
 I was at a gossiping club,
 Where we had a cherruping cup ;
 Of humming liquor, strong bub,
 Your husband's name there was up :
 For bearing a wonderful sway,
 All neighbours his wonders have seen,
 For he is a cuckold, they say----
 A constable---gossip I mean :
 Dear gossip a slip o'the tongue,
 No harm may proceed from the mind ;
 Chance words they will mingle among,
 For others we commonly find :
 I hope you wont take it amiss---
 No, no, there is folly in us,
 And if we by stealth get a kiss,
 Our husbands are never the worse.

The PEASANT and his GOD, A FABLE
from Mr Perrault.

JOVE, the greatest parent of mankind,
 Once to a peasant lands assign'd
 In trust, at the year's end to yield
 Half the neat profits of the field ;
 With this proviso, that the God
 Should now attend the farmer's nod ;
 Hail, rain, blow, freeze, or send sun shine,
 Just as the peasant should incline.
 On this, the man with pain and toil.
 Plough'd, sow'd, and harrow'd well the soil,
 Which first he dung'd---and saw with joy,

Jove as he pleas'd, his power employ.
 Just as he sought the weather came,
 Nor had one neighbour's grounds the same.
 Well, harvest comes---and then he saw,
 A field not full of corn---but straw.
 At this jove smil'd, who little car'd,
 How well he as a partner far'd;
 And only meant to shew how vain
 To providence is human pain:
 See, friend, he to the peasant said,
 How ill, on your own terms you've sped!
 When wind and snow, and rain and sun,
 Round daily at your option run.
 Go, plough, sow, dung, and tend your ground,
 I, in my province will be found;
 Your labour shew, nor doubt my skill,
 But leave the weather to my will.
 So said, so done---the harvest come,
 Such mighty load of corn came home;
 That 'twas with equal skill and pain,
 The barns were made to hold the grain.
 Such was the change, when feeble man,
 No more beyond his limits ran.

The Jesuitical painter: Or, a match for the Devil,
A Vict'ler did once to a painter repair,
 To deck his old house with the sign of the bear,
 But to lessen expence, thought it needless and vain
 To bedeck Bruin's back with a costly gold chain:
 But the knave so untemper'd his colours did lay
 That the first show'r of rain wash'd his tints quite away.
 My landlord swore loud at the man of the brush,
 That his daubing deserv'd not the skin of a rush.
 Why, friend, cry'd the artist (a master of cunning)
 Can a bear without chains be prevented from running?
 You blame without reason, all thoughtless and warm,
 Tho' your bear has escaped, here's no matter of harm.
 No harm, quoth mine host, what to see, a pox on it,
 A plain dangling board, with no picture upon it?
 Tush, tush, quoth arch dry-brush, rave on till you burst
 'Tis as good, I'll aver, as when hung up at first;
 'Tis true there's no picture, what then? ne'er repine;
 For your sign of a bear you have got a bare sign.

An EPIGRAM.

CRIES Sylvia to a reverend dean,
 What reason can be given,
 Since marriage is a holy thing,
 That there are none in heaven?
 There are no women, he reply'd,
 She quick returns the jest---
 Women there are, but I'm afraid
 They cannot find a priest.

On the Derivation of the word NEWS.

THE word explains itself without the muse,
And the four letters speak whence comes the news.
From north, east, west, south, the solution's made,
Each quarter gives account of war and trade.

A REAL CASE.

A Wit told Celia, that the fair
In fame resembled China ware;
Indeed! says she-- well if we do,
I've had this dish years twenty two
To prove its strength, she took it up,
And whilst she prais'd it crack'd the cup.

An EPIGRAM on SCOLDING.

GREAT folks are of a finer mould:
Lord! how politely they can scold,
While a coarse English tongue will itch,
For whore and rogue, and dog and bitch.

An EPIGRAM.

AS Philo's wife lay dead, to calm his grief,
He to Clarinda flies, and finds relief;
She too was crying on her husband's score,
He's dead! he's gone! alas! he is no more:
Since they are dead, poor souls! he, Philo, cries.
'Twill be in vain to grieve, come, dry your eyes;
Our care is just the same, away with sorrow,
One day's enough for that, we'll wed to morrow.

Dear SWIFT's manner of living.

ON rainy days alone I dine,
Upon a chick and pint of wine:
On rainy days I dine alone,
And pick my chicken to the bone:
But this my servants much enrages,
No scraps remain to save board wages,
In weather fine I nothing spend,
But often sponge upon a friend:
Yet where he's not so rich as I,
I pay my club, and so good bye---

VERSES made at CRAMEO.

BE kind, my dear Chloe, let's kiss and let's
Let our favorite guides be the sparrow and
Tho' Adam was dull, till G---- gave him a
Yet he quickly found out what to do with his
He ne'er stood complaining, and whining in
But was wiser, and knew what to do with his
He quickly took ev'ry thing by the right
The grass was his bed, and the sun was his
Then I leave you to guess what he did with his
When Eve had no shame and he had no

love,
dove,
pair,
fair.
rhyme.
time.
handie,
candle,
dear.
fear.

ove.
ove,
air,
fair.
yme.
tima.
ndia,
ndle,
dear.
fear.